



The Bulgebuster

75th Division(Training Support)

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TASK FORCE ANA

75th Division soldiers train Afghan National Army



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The Bulgebuster

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Stand To



Major General Perry V. Dalby
Commander, 75th DIV(TS)



I want to thank all of the commanders, command sergeants major, soldiers, civilians and families who have worked diligently since mobilization on January 27, 2003.

Because of your dedication, hard work and cooperation we were able to accomplish our mobilization mission without any major incidents, safety breaches or training accidents. Due to our adherence to Risk Management practices, we ensured that we had no training risks that led to fatalities.

In addition to our top priority mission of mobilization, we have trained forces to replace soldiers committed to contingencies/stabilization operations such as Noble Eagle and Task Force ANA (Afghan National Army).

As you know, the Global War on Terrorism is still ongoing. American troops are still decisively engaged in peacekeeping and combat operations overseas. As we get our directives and requirements from Fifth Army it becomes very clear that our future mobilization requirements will equal or exceed our prior commitment.

We currently have less than 50% of our Division's reserve component soldiers activated and due to the increased operational tempo, many of these soldiers will be required to remain on active duty for a second year.

The Enduring/Iraqi Freedom mission is very complex due to the fact that it is a

stabilization mission in a contemporary operating environment where the opponents of peace will use asymmetrical warfare to exploit our perceived weaknesses. Tasks, conditions, and standards, change rapidly as we gain intelligence information about our enemy and their terrorist tactics.

Now that we have reset the force, we are prepared for the second iteration of mobilization in support of Iraqi Freedom. As a Division, we will task organize in support of the 2nd Brigade's main effort, as they mobilize the largest combat element from the reserve component since World War II.

We look forward to the challenge of this tremendous training responsibility with great enthusiasm. We will be committed to support at least four power projection platforms as combat support and combat service support units are identified as replacements for combatant commanders.

Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all soldiers, their families, and their employers for remaining loyal and steadfast to this awesome challenge.

Stay focused on the task, and deliver trained and ready units for the ultimate test, which is survival in combat.

Make Ready!





NOTES . . . from the Division Sergeant Major



At this time of year, I know a good portion of the Division has demobilized and returned to their civilian lives and reserve status and the remainder of the Division is very active in preparing replacement soldiers and units for the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). In either case, the importance of accident prevention and safety needs to be high on your list of priorities. It is a time of family and festivities and the heartbreak of a tragedy does not need to befall anyone of us or our family and friends. Oh, and don't be shy in getting your family trained and participating in safety and risk management. Let's focus our attention on the main activities that are the source for preventable accidental death, disability and injury.

- Far and away, your greatest risk is vehicle accidents, either military or civilian. Whether it is a car, truck, motorcycle, boat or other vehicle, this category is the most likely to occur and produces the highest rates of death and serious injury. Drive aware and defensively . . . use your safety equipment (seat belts, helmets, etc.) and increase your chances of survival. Mixing anger, fatigue, or alcohol with driving is a lethal combination. Short trip or long trip, insist everyone buckles up and as the driver stay focused on the task at hand.

- Next category is personal accidents (falls, cuts, burns, etc.) For these, fatalities are low; but pain and recovery time are high. So before you start that next task that you do infrequently, S.T.O.P.P. Take a pause to do your risk assessment and adjust the job accordingly: Stop, Think, Observe, Plan, Proceed with safety.

- My last item is fire, particularly in the home. Believe it or not, it takes about 30 seconds for a dry Christmas tree fire to fully engulf a room; about 3 minutes for a trash can paper fire or a skillet grease fire to be out of control. Poorly maintained furnaces and fireplaces are trouble areas, also. In three minutes, a relatively small fire can form superheated, toxic gases that are fatal. Be diligent about sources for fire in your home; obtain some fire extinguishers for your kitchen, attic, and garage; and, most important have a practiced family escape plan.

If you have missed this year's most important member-of-the-military lesson, I'm here to clarify it for you. The lesson is we are at War and the declared war zone is only an 18-hour plane flight away or the bad guys could be next door. In any case, your military knowledge, training, and professionalism may be called on to save yourself, a family member, a co-worker, etc. If you have not adjusted your training focus accordingly, you should do so now. Bottom line is that each training opportunity in first aid, chemical defense, radio communication, weapons maintenance, weapons proficiency, vehicle operations, CTT, etc. may just be your last opportunity before you have to use it for real. Those soldier axioms of "Shoot, Move, and Communicate" and "Train as you Fight" should be your baseline skill sets.

Along those lines, I want every soldier in the Division to fixate on safe weapons handling. As TSD members, we have limited exposure to our use of weapons; but, as observer/trainers, we have a lot of exposure from client unit personnel with weapons. The Army has had far too many negligent discharges of weapons (3 deaths/51 wounded) this year. These injuries are not limited to individual weapons; be particularly weary of vehicle and aircraft mounted weapons. This is reason enough to keep an eye on any weapon in your vicinity. Is it cleared? Is it on safe? Is the finger off the trigger? Is the muzzle pointed in a safe direction? You may want to brush-up on the proper clearing procedures for weapons you typically encounter during training. Lastly, from recent personal experience, I recommend you inspect and verify every container of blank ammunition you receive prior to its use. The accidental inclusion of a magazine of live rounds from the ammo point can really ruin your day and the training experience.

NCOs, you are tasked with the lead on training, risk management, and safety.

KUDOS from the Division Sergeant Major

I want to continue the tradition of recognizing the professionalism of the NCOs and soldiers across the Division. As you chance to meet these great soldiers, congratulate them for their achievements.

- At the 5th Army NCO/Soldier of the Year Board, SSG Harold Lewis, from 2-382nd LSBn-2nd Brigade, received an honorable mention in the NCO of the Year category and with it some nice awards, among them a \$1000.00 Savings Bond, a \$500.00 Savings Bond, and a plaque mounted Bowie knife. For those of you considering competing this year, these should be some encouraging rewards/enticements.

- From the OPFOR Challenge held at Fort Riley in August, the team from the 2-383rd TSBn-3rd Brigade won the competition. This year we had six teams participating and the competition was fierce. SGT Lourdes James, from 1-289th TSBn-4th Brigade, won the Individual Physical Training Award. The Individual Marksmanship Award was a tie: won by SGT John McBride, from 1-289th TSBn-4th Brigade and CPL Jason Rouse, from 2-383rd TSBn-3rd Brigade. I hope to see every Brigade field at least one team next year.

Elsewhere in the division,

- SFC Marlon L. Moore, 3-290d TSBn-2d Brigade was selected “Top Gun” (best marksman sniper) for his class at the U.S. Army Sniper School at Fort Benning, GA.

- SPC Susan Redwine of the 75th Division Public Affairs Office (PAO) earned the distinction of graduating as Honor Graduate from her Basic Public Affairs/Writer MOS course.

Well done to each of you.

To the Officers, NCOs, and Soldiers of the 75th Division, think safety, live safe, have a joyous Holiday season, and . . . “MAKE READY!”

CSM Blair

Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (COL) Harland Merriam

75th DIV(TS) Chaplain



A Pieced-Together Christmas Tree

When I was a kid growing up in Florida, my dad and I would go out into the woods each December to look for a perfect Christmas tree for our living room. There were none. There were no classic spruce or fir or other trees in our woods -- only scrub, short needle pine trees. Most years, we had to settle for a less-than-perfect-tree and often we would have to cut two trees and tie them together to make one relatively good looking one. Once home and nailed onto a homemade wooden stand and placed in the living room, we would decorate it with strings of lights and brightly colored decorations and tinsel. With a little work and a lot of love, the scrubby tree would be transformed into a beauty.

Our family's holiday tree is a lot like life in general. Our own lives, our marriages, the Army, our jobs — are often not perfect to begin with. Far from it! We have to live with what we are given, what we have. But, it is possible, as we did with our tree, to piece things together and, with a little creativity, come up with something which looks pretty good.

I continue to be quite impressed with the creativity of our 75th soldiers during our mobilization. We worked together as a team, offered what we had (limited as it is), and accomplished the mission placed before us with excellence. I am constantly amazed at the resourcefulness of our spouses and families, taking a less-than-perfect situation, gathering available resources, and getting through the challenges of mobilization. I am humbled as I sit with husbands and wives, working with what they have and facing a host of challenges and creating beautiful marriages.

We all have to piece together our Christmas trees and our lives. May God bless us with patience and perseverance as we move through the upcoming holidays and whatever the new year may bring us. And may God help us to pull the pieces together into a beautiful offering unto the Lord.

Fondly,
Chaplain (Colonel)
Harland Merriam
75th Division Chaplain



Surgeon's Scalpel

By Colonel Kenneth W. Peters
75th DIV(TS) Surgeon



Health Insurance Information for REFRAD Soldiers

Here are health insurance options for those soldiers who have demobilized:

1. Tricare Standard (the plan with the same co-pay) is automatically extended for two months after your REFRAD date (the day after terminal leave ends) if you have less than six years of active prior federal service, or for four months if you have six years or more of prior active federal service. If you wish to extend your TRICARE Prime Remote during these periods, you must reapply before the 20th of the month. Go to the TRICARE website at www.tricare.osd.mil to find contact phone numbers and on-line information.

2. For certain conditions that will require medical treatment beyond the automatic two to four month TRICARE extension, TRICARE funded civilian medical care can be authorized through the Military Medical Support Office (<http://mmsso.med.navy.mil>) for soldiers who live more than 50 miles from a Military Medical Treatment Facility. Application for this program can be found on the Reserve Component link at this site, and must be submitted through G-1. It requires a completed DA 2173 (the “informal” line of duty investigation or LODI) and a DD 261 (the “formal” LODI). The purpose of the latter is not intended to identify misconduct, but rather to perform an AR 600-8-1(18 SEPT 1986), PARA 41-8 *e-f* “Existed Prior To Service” (EPTS) determination. While not specifically required, a military physician should complete the EPTS inquiry. The MMSO will then make a determination regarding pre-approval for the soldier’s medical care.

3. A soldier may apply to the Veterans Administration for medical care benefits. You can find information on the application process at their website (va.gov) or toll-free at 877-222-8387. The VA will provide medical care for service-connected disabilities, but non-service-connected disabilities will be approved on availability and financial status determinations. In order to qualify for VA care, the soldier must produce military or TRICARE documentation of the chronic condition and the diagnosis. It is helpful to have a DA 2173 (“informal” LODI) and, if appropriate, a DD 261 (“formal” LODI). An injury/illness acquired or aggravated duty military service will not automatically be “service-connected,” since the VA decides “service-connection.” The LODI’s will help with this process.

4. Lastly, a soldier who had pre-mobilization health insurance is eligible to pick up coverage where it left off.



From the JAG Office

By Colonel Dwight Lewis

75th DIV(TS) Judge Advocate General



Are You A Target?

Military personnel and their families have long been targeted by shady businesses, as evidenced by streets lined with Payday Loan Centers, Pawn Shops and Buy Here/Pay Here auto dealers just outside military installations around the world. Reservists and their families, as well as brand-new soldiers, may be surprised to learn how many people are waiting to make a quick buck at the expense of service personnel. Many of these businesses use military-sounding names like Armed Services Lending or Military Financial Network, and they advertise in unofficial military-related publications like the Army Times to increase their credibility with military personnel.

The National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) recently released a study of military-targeted scams entitled “In Harm’s Way - At Home: Consumer Scams and the Direct Targeting of America’s Military and Veterans.” It gave examples of lending offices requiring soldiers to sign waivers giving lenders direct access to their commanders, of threatening soldiers with UCMJ action for missing payments, and of selling virtually worthless “catalog coupons” as a cover for making loans with three-digit interest rates. A new trend is companies offering to “buy out” portions of soldiers’ veterans’ benefits, which proved to be a cover for making loans over a number of years at interest rates ranging from 39% to 106%. It is illegal to buy or sell veterans’ benefits.

The Federal Trade Commission started a consumer complaint website called “Military Sentinel” where military personnel can file complaints directly with the FTC if they believe they have been the victim of a consumer scam. That website is at www.consumer.gov/military/ or you can get there from AKO by clicking on “My Legal” and “Legal Assistance.” An excerpt of consumer advice from the NCLC report is included below; if you would like to read the whole report, it can be found at www.nclc.org. You can also contact the 75th Division SJA office for assistance at 713-799-7575. We will either be able to help you directly or we will refer you to someone who can.

“Here are some of the basics for steering clear of scams:

“**Save now for unexpected expenses.** Even putting aside a small amount each week will help. Try saving money before there’s an unexpected expense so you can avoid borrowing. You can talk with budget or financial-planning counselors — most military bases have them — who can help you understand how you spend your money each month and how you might save.

“**Shop around.** Don’t immediately accept a lender’s statement that you’re a ‘sub-prime’ borrower who must pay very high interest rates to get credit. You should always shop around rather than accept higher-than-normal loan rates. You may have perfectly good credit in the eyes of another

lender. Even if you are considered high-risk by all those you contact, there are many types of sub-prime loans. You should shop among the different sub-prime lenders until you find a reasonable rate and terms. And don't just look at the monthly payment. Compare the interest rate (also called the 'annual percentage rate,' or APR), the total amount you'll repay, the number of payments, and the fees added to the loan.

“Avoid the most common scams. New scams constantly emerge while old ones change form. The main message is that services aimed at people with bad credit or other financial problems are often rip-offs. If they seem too good to be true, they probably are. And here are a few additional scams to watch out for:

- **Paying for credit repair.** No credit repair agency can clean up your credit record if you've been behind on many debts. Promises to do so are lies designed to get you to pay for something that can't really help you.
- **Taking high-rate loans to tide you over.** Some lenders offer high-rate loans to help you get back into the credit market. The worst of these are high-interest loans secured by your home. You can lose your home for non-payment! These lenders are counting on your belief that you can't get credit on better terms elsewhere. They also may make false promises that the rate can be reduced if you establish a year or more of timely payments. Lenders offering high-rate credit in these circumstances are only trying to rip you off.
- **Doing business with companies that advertise claims such as 'no credit check' or 'bad credit no problem'.** These companies are either loan brokers or lenders looking for borrowers who consider themselves too risky to pass a credit check — and who are therefore willing to sign up for high rates. You may discover when reputable lenders evaluate your credit record that you're a better credit risk than you think.

“Read before you sign. Make sure you or someone you trust reads the loan papers before you sign them. If a lender won't let you take the papers home to study them or tries to rush you, that's a sign of trouble and you should walk away.

“Ask for help. If you borrowed money from one of these lenders and want to know your legal rights, you can get free assistance from your local legal services office or, in the military, your JAG office. You may also want to contact your state Attorney General's office, the local Better Business Bureau, or the Federal Trade Commission's Internet-based consumer complaint hotline Military Sentinel at <http://www.consumer.gov/military/>.

You can also find more detailed information about common consumer scams and your legal rights on the websites of National Consumer Law Center (www.nclc.org), Consumers' Union (www.consumersunion.org), Consumer Federation of America (www.consumerfed.org), the various state Public Interest Research Groups (reachable through the U.S. PIRG website's home page at www.uspirg.org), or in NCLC's 'Guide to Surviving Debt.'”

Inspector General (IG) Assistance: A Soldier's Guide to the IG



IGs are fair and impartial fact-finders and problem-solvers for the Commanding General and the Army. IGs perform four basic functions: **Assistance**, **Investigations**, **Inspections**, and **Teaching & Training**. This guide covers IG Assistance, and below are some helpful hints for soldiers who are considering bringing an issue to the IG.

1) BE SURE YOU HAVE A PROBLEM AND NOT JUST A PEEVE

It's natural for personal peeves to loom large in our minds. But there is little the IG can do about an issue that boils down to a peeve or dislike. Here is a mess hall example - If the cooks consistently turn out lousy chow, that's a problem. If you don't like the menu for one particular meal, then that's a peeve.

2) GIVE THE CHAIN OF COMMAND A CHANCE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM

The chain of command can solve most problems. A soldier's chaplain, congressman, or local IG can help on occasions, but they must ultimately work with the chain of command. If you haven't informed the chain of command about your issue and given them a chance to work it, in most cases, the IG will simply refer you back to your chain of command.

3) TRY ALL OTHER APPROPRIATE REMEDIES

The IG is a kind of "court of last resort." If other remedies are available; they should be used first. If the proper system and/or the chain of command has not been able to solve the problem, then the IG is probably appropriate.

4) DEAL WITH THE CLOSEST IG; IT WILL SPEED THE PROCESS AND PROBABLY GET AN ANSWER SOONER

IGs serve on an area basis, so consider presenting your issue to the closest IG. If it is not appropriate for that local IG, he or she will refer the issue to the appropriate agency or another IG. However, you may deal with an IG at any level you wish. Your problem may be so sensitive that you may not want to discuss it with anyone in your own unit.

5) LEVEL WITH THE IG FROM THE BEGINNING; THE IG WILL SOON FIND OUT "THE REST OF THE STORY"

A great deal of time and effort can be wasted when a soldier only presents half of the story. Very often, soldiers only present the information that they feel is in their favor. IGs only take action when they have all of the facts about a situation – the good, the bad, and the ugly. Save us both some time and provide all of the facts, even the ones that you don't like, or don't agree with.

6) KEEP IN MIND THE IG's REGULATORY AND STATUTORY LIMITS

The IG cannot change a regulation just because it does not suit an individual. An IG can, however, recommend changes to regulations determined to be inappropriate or unfair.

7) AN IG IS NOT A COMMANDER; THE IG CAN ONLY RECOMMEND, NOT ORDER

Some soldiers get upset when nothing seems to happen as a result of their complaint. Keep in mind that the IG can advise a commander but cannot order action. Commanders are obligated to take action when a regulation or standard has been broken, or when a soldier has not been afforded due process. But if a commander has the authority to make the decision, and the decision does not violate a written procedural, legal, or ethical standard, the commander's choice may stand.

8) AN IG CAN ONLY RESOLVE A CASE ON THE BASIS OF PROVABLE FACT

If the IG cannot find concrete proof, then he or she will not resolve the case in favor of the complainant. Just because a person says his or her supervisor has violated the rules does not make it a verifiable fact.

9) BE PATIENT; THE METHODS AND NATURE OF IG WORK REQUIRE TIME

The motto of the Inspector General Corps is "Droit et Avant," which basically means "Be right, then move forward." We have to do our homework first, to "be right." Only after we have all of the pertinent facts and have thoroughly researched the appropriate regulations and standards will we take action in a situation. IGs employ a logical, thorough, and methodical approach to their work – which usually takes a great deal of time to achieve.

10) BE PREPARED TO TAKE 'NO' FOR AN ANSWER

IGs will be straight with you about their findings. Sometimes we say no or tell you that the chain of command was right, and/or that you were wrong. If you are absolutely certain the answer is wrong, and if you have some additional evidence to support that, then the case may be reconsidered.

IG Assistance: What does an IG do with my request for assistance?

IGs use a process called the Inspector General Action Process (IGAP). We will not try to explain this fairly complex process here, but we will highlight some of the major steps. After receiving the issue, the IG will determine if the issue is “IG appropriate.” Is this an issue the IG should deal with, or is it more appropriate for another agency or for the chain-of-command? If the issue is not IG appropriate, the IG who received the issue/complaint will refer it to the appropriate agency or individual. If the issue is IG appropriate, then we will begin the fact-finding process. IGs get all sides of the story before taking action, which often means finding the truth somewhere in the midst of conflicting viewpoints. After determining the facts of the situation, the IG will then determine the appropriate action. Usually, the IG will inform you telephonically or in writing of his or her finding. Due to the confidentiality requirements for IGs, you will not always get the results if you are a third-party to the issue or the outcome does not directly affect you.

1) Who can go to the IG?

Anyone can bring an issue to an Army IG: Soldiers, DA civilians, family members, anonymous sources, members of the chain-of-command, — anyone.

2) What types of issues can I take to the IG?

You can bring *any* issue to an IG. However, the IG will determine whether the issue should be dealt with by the IG, or if another agency should deal with the issue. For example, Equal Opportunity (EO) complaints are usually referred to an EO Representative. Disagreements over evaluations are dealt with using the existing OER/NCOER appeals process.

3) When can I go to the IG?

Anytime, but with some exceptions. Your chain-of-command should not prohibit you from visiting the IG, but you must still perform your required duties and missions. In other words, you shouldn't try to use a trip to the IG's office to get out of something, like a formation, field problem, APFT, etc.

4) Why would I need to go to the IG?

Again, you can bring any issue to an IG, including requests for help, information, as well as complaints (see the reverse side about complaints). Usually, we can help you if you've tried to use the systems in place, but those systems haven't worked. For example, if you have a pay issue that you have tried repeatedly to correct through your chain-of-command and S-1 without success, we can often get the issue resolved.

5) Where can I contact an IG?

IGs serve on an area basis. Your best bet is to contact the closest IG. If you are a member of the 75th Division (TS), you can always contact the 75th Division (TS) IG. Contact information for several IG offices is listed below.

IG, 75th Division (Training Support)

1850 Old Spanish Trail
Houston, TX 77054-2029
(713) 799-7552 or 1(800) 390-1530 ext 7552

IG, Fort Bliss, Texas

1733 Pleasonton Road
Fort Bliss, TX 79916-6816
(915) 568-1241

IG, Fort Riley, Kansas

Bldg 7620
Fort Riley, KS 66442-5011
(785) 239-9314

IG, 5th US Army

1400 East Grayson Street, Suite 146
Fort Sam Houston, TX
78234-7000
(210) 221-1719/2734

IG, Fort Sam Houston, Texas

1483 Road S5, Bldg 261
Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-5026
(210) 221-1461/2327/0143

IG, Ft Leonard Wood, Missouri

316 Missouri Ave, Suite 334
Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473-8932
(573) 596-0486

III Corps IG, Fort Hood, Texas

761st Tank Battalion Ave, Bldg 1001, Rm C119
Fort Hood, TX 76544-5003
(254) 287-7209/2258

IG, Fort Sill, Oklahoma

US Army Field Artillery Center and Fort Sill
Fort Sill, OK 73503-5100
(580) 442-3109

IG, Fort Polk, Louisiana

1878 15th St, Bldg 1943
Fort Polk, LA 71459-5438
(337) 531-2100/7878

Family Care

By Master Sgt. Angela A. Byrd
75th DIV(TS) Family Program Coordinator



"When we assumed the soldier we did not lay aside the citizen."
Gen. George Washington June 26, 1775

In the Family Readiness Office of the 75th Division (Training Support), caring for families has the same priority as caring for soldiers. Although the Family Readiness Program is a commander's program, as the Division Commander's representative, I am here to assist commanders, soldiers and families with all plans, policies, and procedures pertaining to Family Readiness.

The Family Readiness Office will continually strive to keep our soldiers and their families informed by providing information and links to communities and resources, so they will not have to spend a lot of time searching for information. We will conduct site visits to assist Family Support Groups with their Family Activities as well as assist in identifying and solving all problems that may arise. Each month, the Family Readiness Office conducts a teleconference in which Family Readiness Liaisons at all levels of command within the 75th Division are encouraged to participate. We want to provide the best quality of customer service to all commanders, soldiers and their families.

Feel free to contact me, Master Sgt. Angela Y. Byrd, Division Family Program Coordinator, anytime. Email: angela.byrd@usarc-emh2.army.mil, telephone (713) 795-3492 or (800) 390-1530, extension 3492. Cellular phone: (832) 444-8736, pager 1-877-647-0986, fax (713) 795-7227.

FAMILY PROGRAM ADVISORY COUNCIL QUARTERLY MEETING

Headed by Mrs. Barbara Dalby, the 75th Division Family Program Council's mission is to advise and assist the 75th Division commanding general in improving policies that have an impact on Family Readiness Programs for reserve and active component units within the 75th Division, (Training Support).

The 75th Division Family Program Advisory Council conducts their council meetings on a quarterly basis. The council's next meeting is scheduled for December 2003. The goal of the Family Program Advisory Council is to enhance readiness and retention by ensuring that the Division Family Program is effective, responsive, and meaningful in meeting the needs of soldiers and their families. Their objective is to provide information gained from their own personal experiences as well as information gathered from other members of the USAR community relating to the Total Army Family Program.

In addition, the council identifies common problems, concerns, and issues while also making appropriate recommendations. If you have any family issues or concerns that you would like to be addressed, please pass them along to your unit Family Readiness Liaison, Family Readiness Group Leader or you may contact the Division Family Readiness office.

ARMY FAMILY TEAM BUILDING NET TRAINER

Army Reserve family members and spouses can now receive skills training and support at their desks thanks to the new Army Family Team Building (AFTB) net trainer web site. The web site allows anyone interested in AFTB training to register and take available courses online. What is Army Family Team Building? Army Family Team Building is not a new idea or concept. It is the formal recognition of something the Army and Army families have been doing for over 200 years—sustaining and nurturing the force, and serving the nation.

The mission of AFTB is to educate and train all of America's Army in knowledge, skills, and behaviors, and to prepare Army families to move successfully within the 21st Century. AFTB has three separate tracks: One for soldiers, (active and reserve components), one for Department of the Army Civilians, and one for family members. The soldier and the DA Civilian training programs are taught in the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) Schools. Family member training is taught at installations and classrooms. This 11-year-old program's purpose is to provide family members with opportunities to help families reach their maximum potential, promote self reliance skills and gain information about the Army. "Impact of the Mission on Family Life" and "Adapting to Change" are two examples of these courses. For more information on AFTB and its online courses, you can visit their web site at: <http://www.army.mil/usar/familyprog/afb>.

ARMY FAMILY LIAISON OFFICE SMARTBOOK

The Army Family Liaison Office SmartBook is an online resource that organizes contact information, web links, and downloadable files in one convenient system. Click any category from AAFEES to The Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Guide to view available entries at <http://www.aflo.org>.

RETURN AND REUNION

Take a moment and browse the Return and Reunion Section of the Office of the Secretary of Defense's web site. The Return and Reunion Section will better prepare families, relatives and friends on how to make the reunion as memorable as possible.

<http://www.afcrossroads.com/famseparation>

<http://www.defenselink.mil/ra/family/toolkit>

DEPLOYMENT CONNECTIONS

Deployment Connections is a joint family readiness web page that provides the public, servicemembers, families and extended families and friends information related to Deployment/Mobilization. This site provides a wealth of information as well as other pertinent links pertaining to Military Families as well as Family Readiness.

<http://www.deploymentconnections.org>

Military Security

By **Mr. Alvin Zeno**

75th DIV(TS) Intelligence Security Specialist



As the new security specialist for the 75th Division (Training Support), it is my priority to establish a more efficient security program through areas such as Personnel Security, Information Security and Force Protection.

With the help of the G2, I will strive to make each brigade and subordinate unit a success with the best security program possible. I will inspect most of your security areas to ensure that you are in compliance with pertinent regulations and its supplements.

I will be an inspector, but also a teacher and mentor at the same time. I will take advantage of all available resources to assure that you receive the latest and greatest assistance from the intelligence arena. I want us to establish a network, where we will be able to establish lines of communication to ensure information flow is working and that we are exchanging the most accurate information possible.

Throughout the FY04, I will be visiting with each brigade and their subordinate units to assist them on any security related problems they may have. Additionally, I will take the opportunity to get to know each one of you and to establish a working relationship between the division G2 and the brigade and subordinate S2s.

I have an extensive background in the security field and I am looking forward to sharing this knowledge with each one of you.

I was sent to the 75th Div(TS) by USARC and have been with the division since June 2003. I look forward to making this division a role model for others to follow and I promise that with my leadership and your positive attitude, we will accomplish the mission.

Again, I want you to know that you have my sincere support on any security issues, and I will do my best to answer all of your questions.

3rd Brigade

Headquarters, Fort Riley, Kan., Col. Gasper Gulotta, Commander

When 3rd Brigade began its mobilization, every soldier transformed their daily lives to acclimate to rigorous missions ahead. Combining efforts with Mobilization Assistance Teams at Fort Riley, Kan. and Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., the brigade accomplished missions such as conducting exercises in preparation to activate a Defense Coordinating/Liaison Element to support Federal Emergency Management Agency in region VII through the Military Support to Civil Authorities. Additionally, the brigade provided unit assistors, forward assistance teams, and observer controller/trainers to each activated military reserve unit to facilitate the process of completing mobilization for the client unit.

As soldiers of 3rd Brigade worked hard, they also knew how to play hard. They hosted a golf tournament on Fort Riley and conducted the first Organizational or Sports Day in July. These hard-playing soldiers invited their sister brigades to participate in the fun by throwing an annual OPFOR Challenge, which consisted of work and play. It was a successful training event that allowed soldiers and units to build esprit de corps.

Currently, the brigade is slowly demobilizing its mobilized reservists according to the mission. But, the fun has yet to end. The brigade is gearing up to create a Task Force Dependable, which consolidates the remaining mobilized reservists under command of 2-383rd Regiment, to run training lanes for mobilizing client units at Fort Riley. With the recent change of commands, 3rd Brigade soldiers are ready to attack future challenges with their expertise and meet the next Command Inspection Program successfully.

The Brigade is proud to be a part of projecting combat power around the globe in support of Operations Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom and most importantly preparing Reserve Component forces for their warfighting missions that will surely result in greater mission



performance and the preservation of our soldiers' lives.

The following summaries describe what are battalions have been conducting for the past six months:

1-291st Regiment

submitted by Maj. Carl R. Coffman Jr., Battalion XO

The 1-291st Aviation Regiment continues to provide training assistance to Reserve Component aviation units in the Fifth US Army Area of Responsibility with priority of support to attack helicopter units, cavalry squadrons, air traffic services (ATS) and intermediate maintenance units (AVIM). They have been conducting Lanes training and TAM evaluations; YTP development and functional area assistance to enable client units to achieve pre-mobilization readiness. The battalion continues efforts in conducting internal force protection and sustainment operations. Most recently, they completed mobilization assistance and assessment for an aviation task force deploying to support Stabilization Forces-Bosnia and an ATS and AVIM company in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Currently the battalion is preparing one attack helicopter battalion and one attack squadron to complete pre-deployment assessment, training and validation for possible deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan.

2-291st Regiment

submitted by Maj. James S. Perry, Battalion XO

It will come as no surprise to anyone that the aviators and soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 291st Regiment (Training Support)(Aviation) contin-

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4th Brigade

Headquarters, Fort Sill, Okla., Col. Jefferson Ewing, Commander

One of the more significant missions of the 4th Brigade since being mobilized has been to perform as Mobilization Assistance Teams (MAT) at two military installations, Fort Sill, Okla. and Fort Polk, La. Another important function of the 4th Brigade is to provide Unit Assistors to each activated military unit in order to facilitate the process of completing Soldier Readiness Processing for the unit. The 4th Brigade has been extremely active in this process and has mobilized thousands of soldiers.

The 1/289th recently demobilized many of its soldiers. Despite the demobilization, the unit has been busily mobilizing and deploying its client units. These have consisted primarily of chemical, and engineer units. Teams have traveled to Fort Polk, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Fort McClellan, Ala., Fort Hood, Texas, and various home stations to work with the client units. Even with long hours and many days away from home station, the morale of the unit has remained extremely high.

The 2/381st is located at Grand Prairie, Texas and is often referred to as the "Dallas Battalion" of the 4th Brigade. The battalion has assisted more than 190 units and detachments made up of over 5400 soldiers with mobilizations through 20 different military installations. The battalion is currently in the process of assisting three more units and detachments made up of over 120 soldiers spread across three different military installations. The unit is also covering six more units that are on alert status, awaiting mobilization orders. In May, they had an AT mission at Fort Pickett, Va. with a pipeline unit.

Since mobilization, the 1/382nd LSB has supported five PPPs while simultaneously arranging logistics support for peacetime AT and IDT lanes. The LSB soldiers who worked down range received many laudatory comments from their client units. This was also an excellent opportunity to work with the 2nd and 3rd Brigade

LSBs.

The 1/382nd LSB found time to build unit cohesion while performing its mission. The unit went rappelling, arranged for various internal sports event competition, completed the Confidence Course, went helicopter flying, and received a tour of the Striker vehicle. The unit combined forces with 4th BDE HHC to participate in the Fort Sill Baseball League. Six soldiers completed the requirements for the Gold German Sports Badge. The unit's FRG arranged events including farewells, celebrations, and get-togethers hosted at different soldier's homes. The unit also participated in a fundraiser by working a food booth at the Lawton Coliseum. Command Sgt. Maj. Adams arranged 2 NCO induction ceremonies for 5 newly promoted E5s. Bottom line: the 1/382nd has been quite busy not only with mission and training, but also found time for relaxing and family events.

The 1/290th at Fort Sill is providing UA and OC/T assistance to the 45th FA BDE, 1-158 FA Battalion (MLRS), and the DET2 1120th of the Oklahoma National Guard in their mobilization for support of Operation Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom.

2nd Battalion, 289th (TS)(FA) Regiment is stationed at Fort Riley, Kan. The battalion provides training support to the following client units: 130th Field Artillery Brigade, Topeka Kan., 2-130th (MLRS), Hiawatha, Kan., 169th Field Artillery Brigade, Aurora Colo., 1-157th FA (MLRS), Boulder, Colo., 2-157th FA (MLRS), Colorado Springs, Colo., 2-147th FA (MLRS) Watertown, S.D., 147th Field Artillery Brigade and 1-147th FA (MLRS) of Sioux Falls, S.D. Over the last several months the battalion's soldiers have assisted countless units as they prepared to mobilize in support of Operation



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S.E.R.E.: Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape

By Sgt. 1st Class James Farmer, Sgt. 1st Class John Jenkins, and Staff Sgt. Gordon
3d Battalion, 289th Regiment (TS)(CS/CSS)

During combat, there are times when a soldier may get separated from his unit. The ability to evade capture and survive off of the elements could be the difference between escaping and becoming a prisoner of war. Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (S.E.R.E) training helps to prepare soldiers for the situations that could be faced in combat.

This SERE Level B familiarization training consists of handling hostage situations, Geneva/Hague Conventions, Code of Conduct, survival skills, and POW scenarios.

The Army also teaches the SERE Level C training course to soldiers who are in a high-risk-of-capture category, such as Special Forces, Rangers and aviators. The Level C course is designed to give students the skill to survive and evade capture or, if captured, to resist interrogation or exploitation and plan their escape.

Both the B and C classes are in addition to the annual briefings each soldier receives at their unit which is classified as SERE Level A.

Phase One of SERE Level B training consists of classroom hostage situation training. This phase gives the student examples of how to respond if taken hostage. The scenarios in this portion of training cover some of the reasons behind why hostages are taken, such as monetary gain and political purposes.

“The DOD hostage film gave good examples of what to do to avoid being taken as a hostage, as well as how to react if you are,” said Sgt. 1st Class John Jenkins, Combat Support Team member and class instructor. “One thing to remember is that the Code of Conduct can be used whether a person is a hostage or a POW.”

Phase Two discusses the Geneva and Hague Conventions and how they apply to POW situations. The Geneva and Hague Conventions list soldiers’ basic rights as a POW. The Code of

Conduct, on the other hand, is a guideline for personal conduct as a POW. The students are provided with situations to discuss the differences between the two.

“Most soldiers have only read the Code of Conduct, they haven’t necessarily gone into it in depth”, said Sgt. 1st Class James Farmer.

In Phase Three, students are taught about basic survival techniques such as food and water procurement, constructing a shelter, and basic evasion skills. These topics are used to familiarize the soldier with the skills necessary to survive in a hostile environment while evading capture.

“Evading and surviving in a hostile environment is a lot harder than most people think it will be”, said Sgt. 1st Class Willie Carrierre.

In Phase Four soldiers participate in a Situational Training Exercise (STX) that encompasses all the skill training they have received the first day.

“The soldiers are required to perform five tasks while evading capture. If captured they endure a little taste of what might happen in a real situation” said Master Sgt. Michael White.

The tasks soldiers are required to perform include, procuring water, constructing a snare, evading capture, constructing a shelter as well as some leadership tasks.

“Leadership is especially stressed in this exercise, by the senior person in each group taking charge, accounting for all soldiers in their group, and having an escape plan” added White.

The Level B class was designed to provide students with a challenging environment to appreciate the basic concepts of SERE. Feedback from all participants was extremely positive and many requested a more involved course with a more in-depth evasion portion. The instructors kindly responded with the contacts for the DOD SERE C course.

West Point Story

Story and photos by Maj. Wayne Marotto



Cadet barracks at the
United States Military
Academy at West Point



Capt. James Kisiel, USMA 1992, and Staff Sgt. Juan Medrano at Camp Buckner.

For Capt. James Kisiel, 1st BDE, 75th DIV (TS), training Army cadets at the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point, NY was a trip down memory lane. Kisiel is a 1992 graduate of the USMA and participated in the annual exercise at Camp Buckner for cadets entering their sophomore year. This year the exercise was called Operation Highland Warrior.

The Army cadets at West Point go through a series of training exercises during the summer between each academic year. The freshmen, known as new cadets, go through Beast Barracks during the summer before they enter the academy. Beast Barracks is the academy's equivalent to basic training. After the cadets enter the academy they are called plebes.

Sophomore cadets, called yearlings, spend their summer at Camp Buckner learning about each Army branch. They go through training in Engineering, Field Artillery and Infantry, which some cadets have called the most challeng-

ing of the training.

Junior and senior cadets spend their summers going to Army schools (Airborne, Air Assault) or participating in training where they act as platoon leaders in an actual army unit, and being student cadre at Beast Barracks and Camp Buckner.

"The mission of the 75th DIV (TS) was to provide



The image of Dwight D. Eisenhower, USMA 1915, General of the Army and 34th President of the United States looms large over campus.

fourteen trainers to conduct Field Manual 7-8 instructions, with the Ranger Handbook as a reference, to teach sophomore cadets basic infantry skills and tactics," said Kisiel who was the 75th DIV (TS) Officer in Charge. Field Manual 7-8 is the Army Infantry manual that lays



Master Sgt. Lucio Valdez shouts encouragement to the cadets during a movement to contact drill.

out basic infantry tactics.

Due to the global war on terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan, the active army could not spare the soldiers to train the cadets. Fifth Army tasked the 75th DIV(TS) and 91st DIV(TS) to augment the West Point Cadre with 11B (Infantry) soldiers from June 23, 2003 to Aug. 10, 2003.

"It's good this year that we have senior NCOs; normally we task from an active duty unit. But, because of the war, things got changed. So, we ended up drawing reservists for this task. Because of that, we got much more senior NCOs and that has been a big help. And the 75th has been a big part of that," said Lt. Col. Jacob Berlin, USMA Senior Company trainer.

Senior non-commissioned officers with an infantry MOS were squad leader trainers of the cadets. The vast majority of the NCOs all had prior active



The cadets and the OCs move tactically to a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during an air assault mission.

duty experience with infantry units. This wealth of experience and leadership was beneficial to the young cadets.

The NCOs spent two weeks training on the battle drills and were validated by the USMA Senior Company trainer, Lt. Col. Berlin. The NCOs spent one week training and validating the USMA Senior Cadets who would assist the NCOs. The NCOs provided training in patrolling, movement to contact, conduct of the defense, and battle drills to

name a few of the exercises the cadets performed.

Master Sgt. Lucio Valdez, 1st BDE, was a small unit squad leader and instructed the cadets on infantry tactics. During a movement to contact, Valdez walked amongst the cadets as they attacked the OPFOR (who were soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division) on top of a cliff. Valdez shouted encouragement at the cadets to fight through the OPFOR using fire and maneuver.

After the objective was

captured, an after-action-review (AAR) was lead by Valdez.

The cadets discussed what they did which was good and what they needed to improve on. Valdez deftly guided the cadets into having them explain what their strengths and weaknesses were on the mission.

Valdez said the NCOs at West Point, “Assisted, advised, and mentored the cadets on leadership skills and infantry tactics.” For the nineteen-year veteran, sharing his infantry skills and training future Army officers was a rewarding experience.

“My most rewarding experience was when the cadets told me that they enjoyed me sharing my knowledge, experience, and field craft,” said Valdez.

Sgt. 1st Class Garth Swisher, an OPFOR soldier from 1/383, 3rd BD, believes that the NCOs influenced the cadets in a positive way. He said that the training the cadets received from the senior NCOs would help them become better officers.



A West Point cadet lays down heavy fire during the squad ambush.



Master Sgt. Lucio Valdez conducts an AAR with the cadets after they completed a movement to contact drill.

The weather did not always cooperate during Highland Warrior. It rained heavily for several days, soaking the soldiers to the bone.

After one particular thunderstorm, the cadets were wet, cold, and tired from an earlier ambush. One of the cadets had to be evacuated because of hypothermia.

It was gut check time for the cadet who was the acting platoon leader. Swisher told the cadet to take charge and get the soldiers ready for the next mission.

“He walked over to a tree, stands there, adjusts his equipment, composes himself, takes a breath, walks over and tells everybody that they were to dig defensive positions for patrol base operations,” Swisher said. “And we are going to suck it up, drive on, and who’s got my Kevlar?”

Swisher said that this was a good learning experience in leadership for the cadet because he was in charge and even though he was wet and cold he had to set the example.

Staff Sgt. Timothy Moore, 2/290, 4th BDE, worked with the cadets from 2nd squad, 3rd platoon, C Company, and was the NCOIC on a



Staff Sgt. Tim Moore working with the cadets during an ambush live fire exercise at West Point.



General of the Army and USMA 1903, Douglas MacArthur looks out over his beloved campus.

squad ambush live fire exercise. The patrol moved ranger file with their weapons at the ready up a mountain and set up security at their objective rally point (ORP). The patrol leader used hand signals to gather the essential leaders in the center of the ORP and then did a leaders recon to see the objective.

Once the objective was located, the patrol came back to the ORP, picked up the rest of the patrol and moved stealthily to the objective. Moore gave the cadets pointers on how they needed to set up security at the ORP. He also had the cadet patrol leader back brief him on what he had observed at the objective.

The cacophonous boom of a live claymore mine exploding initiated the beginning of the ambush. The cadets let loose a heavy volume of fire and engaged the enemy (which were pop up targets) in the kill

zone. The patrol leader gave the signal for a cease-fire and the firing stopped. Teams were sent out to the kill zone to search the dead, and then the patrol quickly withdrew back to its ORP.

After the mission was ended, Moore led an AAR with the help of a videotape of the mission. The cadets watched and discussed ways they could have improved on the mission.

Learning how to be an effective leader under the stress of combat conditions was the overall objective of Camp Buckner. The soldiers of the 75th DIV(TS) left their imprint on these young cadets in a positive way and helped the officer corps and U.S. Army.

Staff Sgt. Robert Stopf, 2/290, 4th BDE, said that having the cadets tell him that he was tactically and technically proficient enough to teach them was rewarding and made him

feel that he had accomplished much at West Point.

“The NCOs of the division were motivated to teach cadets and the cadets listened to them and did a great job for these future leaders of the United States Army,” said Kisiel.



Even as a bronze statue, General George S. Patton, USMA 1909, keeps watch over today's West Point Cadets.

3rd Battalion Loses O'Leary, Gains Proffitt

Story and photos by Kamelia Russell

Rainstorms from the night before cleaned the debris off of Sheridan Avenue as if in recognition of a ceremony that took place on Sept. 12, 2003.

Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 382nd Regiment sent off their commander, Lt. Col. Robert (Chuck) O'Leary, and welcomed Lt. Col. Alan Proffitt during a change of command ceremony at Cavalry Parade Field.

"His career path is a model for soldiers. That is, a record of TONE and TDA assignments, then taking the knowledge to the field and to the training units to share with the next generation," said Col. Gasper Gulotta, 3rd Brigade, 75th Division commander.

O'Leary took the Army by storm since he enlisted in 1971. His military career became well rounded as he accepted challenges in both a combat and training environment. Then, as Gulotta explained, O'Leary took his knowledge and experience into the "school house" to prepare tomorrow's soldiers. According to Gulotta, O'Leary brought his extensive combat expertise to the unit and trained people to move forward.

"You've made yourself proud, you've made your families proud and you've made me proud," O'Leary emotionally said to his former unit. "I challenge you with giving the same effort

and the same determination to Col. Proffitt throughout this mobilization and continue to save soldiers' lives."

In November 2000, O'Leary assumed command of the Logistics Support Battalion, 3rd Batt., 382nd Rgmt., and he immediately faced a challenge. He relocated the unit from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to Fort Riley, Kan.

"Being a commander is a hard job," said Lt. Col. Pamela Weishaar, executive officer for 3rd Brig. 75th Division. "Col. O'Leary had a more difficult job coming in during a mobilization and he did a good job."

He and his wife Patti also maintained a solid relationship with the deployed soldiers' families through the Family Readiness Group.

"He was a strong leader, which is what we needed through the move from Fort Leonard Wood and the mobilization," said Lisa Green, unit administrator for 3rd Batt., 382nd Rgmt.

Before taking command of this unit, Proffitt served as the Deputy Commander of the 353rd Engineer Group. With his background in engineering and military intelligence, he had a fondness for hazardous materials, as well as, according to Gulotta, the worst job in the Army...an atomic demolitions specialist.

"Today, taking the LSB from Chuck

O'Leary, this could be a hazardous duty job because Col. Proffitt brings quite a history with him," said Gulotta.

Proffitt may not be working with hazardous materials at this battalion, but he will be sharpening his skills at rebuilding. After the unit demobilizes, he will need to rebuild the soldiers he might lose and prepare them for future supporting missions.



Lt. Col. Robert (Chuck) O'Leary (left photo) passes the 382nd Reg. colors to Col. Gasper Gulotta, 3rd Brigade commander, during the change of command ceremony. Gulotta then passed the colors to the incoming regimental commander, Lt. Col. Alan Proffitt (right photo).

Division Soldiers Volunteer for Front Line in Task Force ANA

Story by Spc. Susan Redwine, Staff Writer

The United States' military effort in Afghanistan began more than a year ago in an effort to root out the terrorists responsible for the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Since then, operations in Afghanistan have entered a new phase, moving from a period of major combat activity to a period of stabilization and reconstruction.

The U.S. has formed Task Force ANA to train the Afghan National Army, which will help foster the legitimacy and authority of the Islamic transitional government of Afghanistan. This operation will use conventional forces to supplement the special forces that have been training the ANA.

Soldiers from the 75th Division (Training Support) have volunteered for deployment to Afghanistan to participate in Task Force ANA.

Sgt. 1st Class Edwin R. Ortiz, communications chief for the 1st Brigade, said he volunteered in order to use the skills he's been trained for as a soldier. He said during his time on active duty, he never saw combat, but feels he has been trained for that purpose for many years. Volunteering to go to Afghanistan gives Ortiz the opportunity to use his long-held soldier skills, he said.

After missing out on two deployments, Capt. Isaac Johnson Jr., the 75th DIV (TS) budget officer, was eager to take this opportunity when it came up. Johnson said all of his immediate buddies were deployed to Kuwait and Iraq and he saw Task Force ANA as an opportunity to serve not only the finance corps, but also serve the Army.

For Sgt. 1st Class Eric Cameron Foster, unit supply NCOIC for the 1st SEG, 1st Brigade, when the chance to sign up for Task Force ANA came up, he saw it as an excellent opportunity. Foster said he likes adventure and he was bored of sitting in Houston, so he volunteered to

participate in Task Force ANA.

The soldiers are taking different but similar approaches to preparing for the deployment. Ortiz said because the unit is already mobilized, he's mentally ready for deployment and he's comfortable with it.

"I'm in great shape, I'm just ready to go," said Ortiz.

Johnson said all his personal affairs were in order from the soldier readiness processing for mobilization, but he has been maintaining PT readiness. He is also reviewing and practicing financial exercises. Johnson said he is excited to be able to conduct financial operations in a combat environment.

In addition to SRP and PT readiness, Foster said he is taking extra steps to prepare for his



Cpt. Johnson stops to consider the best way home from Task Force Phoenix, Afghanistan.

deployment to Afghanistan. He said he worked out with a friend who has also volunteered to go for one person to study Afghan history while the other studies Afghan current affairs and then hold a weekly briefing on what each finds. Foster said he plans to include others who are involved in Task Force ANA in the group.

Staff Sgt. Karmen B. San Nicolas, the senior budget NCO for the division, said that she would rather go than have to send some younger soldier who is just starting a family. She also said that soldiers heed a call to honor and duty that civilians just don't understand.

"My family doesn't really want me to go. My kids are grown. I have my own life to live, and although they don't like it, they respect it. It's just part of the job," she said.



Master Sgt. Baker poses with members of the Afghan National Army while working with Task Force ANA.

"We're a training unit and it's [training is] an integral part of the mission," said Foster.

The volunteering soldiers feel that the mission will help the U.S. fight the war on terror.

"If we're successful in this mission, it will make a very big impact in this country [Afghanistan]," said Foster.

"The mission is to train the Afghan Army to be self-sufficient in its own defense and I think it will benefit the war on terrorism as the ANA gets more efficient," said Johnson. He also said when the ANA becomes more self-sufficient, the U.S. will be able to project its forces in other hot areas of the world.

"This will let people know we're not going to be stepped on - that we stand for not only our people, but also

for other countries," said San Nicolas.



Army Chief of Staff Gen. Schoomaker visits soldiers in Afghanistan.

Johnson said soldiers from the 75th Division should be interested in this operation because the division is a training unit. He said the mission of the 75th is to 'Make Ready!' and Task Force ANA is designed to help the ANA make ready.

Some soldiers have already deployed for Task Force ANA, while some will be deployed in the coming months. As the fight in the Global War on Terrorism continues, the 75th Division will continue to do their part in the fight.

OPFOR Challenge Tests Troop Skills

By Spc. Ryan D. Wood

The grass barely rustled as the soldiers moved into position. The target had been identified and now only the kill was left to be made. With movements slow and steady, the rifle was brought into position and a single shot rang out into the woods. The target fell to the ground without a word as his entourage frantically searched the tree line hoping to get a shot off against the attackers, but to no avail. With the same stealth that the team entered the area, they were gone.

As the team left the area, the team leader sent in their SALUTE report. With a grin mirrored on all the faces in the group, the report ended with "One shot. One kill. Out."

Tension eased, and the group headed back toward the area of engagement. They were not going back for more, but to get an after action

report from "the general" and his staff.

This wasn't a real world scenario, but it was as close as anyone could possibly make it. The sniper team was one of six squads vying for the title of best Opposing Force team in the 75th Division during the OPFOR Challenge held at Fort Riley Aug. 11 -14, and this group had performed their mission to perfection.

This year's competition was brutal. After the smoke cleared, 2nd Battalion, 383rd Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 75th Division, Leavenworth, not only won the competition, but also took first place in five of the eight individual events.

The OPFOR Challenge is a fierce competition designed to pit individual OPFOR units from the 75th Division in a contest of both physical conditioning and knowledge, said Lt. Col. J.K. McGee, brigade S-3, 3rd Brigade, 75th Infantry Division.

"The OPFOR challenge teaches teamwork. It shows how well four soldiers can operate as a team," said McGee. "It also emphasizes your own physical strength, endurance, agility, tactical competence and a lot of other technical skills that are soldier tasks, to include land navigation, obstacle course orienteering and how we operate, plan and execute missions."

Teams started training for the event months ago, adding the rigors of preparation to their normal military duties.

"The easy part is the competition," said Staff Sgt Richard Yzaguirre, 1st Bn., 289th Inf., Houston. "The hard part is training for it — the long road marches, getting up early and doing the obstacle course three times a day. We have been training three months and it has been hard and long. Winning is a good thing, but coming through and finishing everybody as a team, together, that is what we are looking for."

A rigorous lane evaluation, which awarded points for each event based on time and quality of performance, determined the best team. Events included the Army Physical Fitness Test,



Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Tygart, 1st Battalion, 383rd Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 75th Division, Des Moines, Iowa, pulls rear security as his team moves into position for a sniper attack.

obstacle course, M-16 live fire qualification, night land navigation, four tactical missions and an eight-mile foot march with rucksack.

Although the goal of taking home the trophy at the end of the week was paramount, the chance to prove their value as a training tool and to sharpen the skills that would help keep the soldiers they train alive was also on their minds.

“This competition is really a time for them to strut their stuff,” said McGee. “They also take the lessons they have learned and the teamwork that they have built, and they go back and train Reserve and National Guard units. With an increased level of proficiency, they can make the training they conduct for the units even better. If we train the units better, there is more of a chance that we are going to keep them together, keep them healthy and bring them all home alive.”

The reasons for holding the OPFOR challenge have only multiplied as the tensions in the world put more stress on training units.

“I think that the OPFOR Challenge is a critical event for the units that are training National Guard and Reserve units to go out in harms way,” said McGee.

“The combat lanes are what the units that will be deploying overseas are going to be seeing,” said Master Sgt. James Thomas, 3rd Bde., 75th Div., operations sergeant. “Be it Bosnia or be it Iraq, they are getting sniped, their vehicles are getting attacked, and in the rear echelon the units are actually intermingling with the troops. So we have these guys (OPFOR) doing the same thing during these tasks. They are being brought up to snuff on what’s



Staff Sgt. Eric Summers, 1st Bn., 383rd Inf., 3rd Bde., 75th Div., Des Moines, Iowa, negotiates the barbed wire obstacle during the OPFOR Challenge.

actually going on in the real world right now. That is the training they are getting so the next time we pull them to hit a unit, we give the unit a first class look at what they will be facing. Hopefully, what we hit them with will be better than what the enemy will hit them with.”

“(OPFOR teams) are the ones that give realism to those training activities that we ask our client units to perform,” said Brig. Gen. Walter Zink, deputy division commander 75th Division. “The OPFOR Challenge really...gives you a chance to get out and test your skills against other OPFOR teams across the Third and Fourth brigades.”

Even with the spirit of competition high, the



Staff Sgt. Craig Phillips, 1st Bn., 289th Inf., 4th Bde., 75th Div., Houston, uses the Ranger crawl method to traverse the hanging rope obstacle and gain his team more points in the obstacle course event.



Sgt. Noel Zuniga, 2nd Battalion, 381st Infantry, 4th Brigade, Dallas, anchors the right end of the M16 qualification event. Each soldier was given 40 rounds and one chance to qualify.

fun of the event was not overlooked.

“There is nothing that says that we can’t perform to the highest levels, accomplish the mission and provide outstanding training and not have fun doing it. You don’t have to be off duty to have fun,” said Zink. “Calling what we do work is a misnomer. Really, what we do is fun. We do it because we want to do it, and we enjoy doing it. You do things that stretch your capabilities and you look back on it and say ‘Man, I could do a little more than I thought I could do.’ That’s why we do the OPFOR Challenge.”

“This is really a chance for these OPFOR soldiers to take a little bit of a break from a pretty intense up-tempo training of Reserve component units - mobilizing them, demobilizing them and assisting them during their annual training periods. This is a chance for them to do something just internal to their unit,” said Zink.

After three days of events and very little sleep for the teams, the challenge was capped by an eight-mile march with 35-pound rucksacks.

“On the road march it would have been easy, having been stretched emotionally, having been stretched technically and having been stretched physically for somebody to say, ‘Hey, I’m not going to win this. I’ll just drop out,’” said Zink. “But to each team’s credit, there was that camaraderie, esprit de corps and teamwork that allowed each of you to complete the mission that you started and complete the road march. There are no losers in this particular event. The Army and our client units are the big winners

because of your willingness to come out to participate and perform to the highest level and standards.”

With all said and done, many units left satisfied with their performance, but ready to come back next year and make a run for the OPFOR Challenge trophy again.

“In the end, the places for the units doesn’t really matter,” said McGee. “It’s good to be able to take a trophy home. It’s good for bragging rights. But in the end, we had six OPFOR teams



The 2nd Bn., 383rd Inf., 3rd Bde., 75th Div. team from Leavenworth, Kan. moves through the obstacle portion of the OPFOR Challenge.

that were competing this year, and in the end we had 24 winners on those six teams. All of them, no matter who you were, no matter what you do better or worse in ... you learn things, not only about yourself but about your teammates.”

Zink offered some final words on what the soldiers had accomplished over the four-day trial.

“We can’t stand still,” said Zink. “We have to continue to increase our level of professionalism and performance. Our adversaries are going to continue to improve, and we have to always be two steps ahead of them.”

OPFOR Challenge Results

Overall Rankings

1st Place 2nd Bn., 383rd Inf., 3rd Bde., 75th Div., Leavenworth, Kan.

2nd Place 1st Bn., 383rd Inf., 3rd Bde., 75th Div., Des Moines, Iowa

3rd Place 1st Bn., 289th Inf., 4th Bde., 75th Div., Houston

Outstanding Individual Performance

Individual PT Award

Sgt. Lourdes James 1st Bn., 289th Inf., 4th Bde., 74th Div., Houston

Individual Marksmanship

Sgt. John McBride 1st Bn., 289th Inf., 4th Bde., 75th Div., Houston

Cpl. Jason Rouse, 2nd Bn., 383rd Inf., 3rd Bde., 75th Div., Leavenworth, Kan.

Team Event Awards

Army Physical Fitness Test

2nd bn., 383rd Inf., 3rd Bde., 75th Div., Leavenworth, Kan.

Obstacle Course 2nd Bn., 383rd Inf., 3rd Bde., 75th Div., Leavenworth, Kan.

M-16 Live Fire Qualification 2nd Bn., 383rd Inf., 3rd Bde., 75th Div., Leavenworth, Kan.

Night Land Navigation 1st Bn. 383rd Inf., 3rd Bde., 75th Div., Des Moines, Iowa

Tactical Missions Events 1st Bn., 383rd Inf., 3rd Bde., 75th Div., Des Moines, Iowa

2nd Bn., 383rd Inf., 3rd Bde., 75th Div., Leavenworth, Kan.

Eight Mile Foot March with Rucksack 2nd Bn., 383rd Inf., 3rd Bde., 75th Div., Leavenworth, Kan.

Woman Team Member First For OPFOR Challenge

By Spc. Ryan D. Wood

When the OPFOR Challenge began this year, most people didn’t think that there would be a little bit of history made during the competition. But history did get to add a name to its list of firsts as the first female in the three-year history of the OPFOR Challenge took to the field and competed in the infantry style event.

Staff Sgt. Lourdes James, a 31L/F with 1st Battalion, 289th Infantry, 4th Brigade, 75th Division, took on the challenge of being the first female on an OPFOR competition team.

“I didn’t know if females had ever competed, but I was very interested in it,” said James, a mother of two with 11 years in the Army.

“I love doing this kind of thing. It was right down my alley. I was first a 31L and a 31F, and I did a lot of time in the field and in Bosnia. Then, I went to the unit that I am in now, it all kind of died down, and I missed it,” she said.

Although James had her doubts as she joined the twenty people competing for the four spots on the team. By the end of the tryouts, she was sure she was in.

That was only the beginning for James.

“We have trained pretty hard. There were times that I thought maybe I wasn’t the best candidate for it because I was a woman, and I voiced that a lot of times because I don’t want to be in it if I am not the best candidate,” said James. “In the end, they said that they were not going to choose you if you were not the best candidate. I made sure that I was not going into it for any other reason other than I was prepared and the best candidate to be on the team.”

First Lt. Derrick Hart, 1st Battalion, 289th Infantry, 4th Bde., 75th Inf. Div., trained the squad, never having any issues with breaking the

Continued on page 57

Follow Me! **COMBAT ARMS ROCKS!**

With 2nd Brigade at Annual Training

Story and photos by Maj. Wayne Marotto

The 1/395th (EN) and 3/395th (AR) battalions from the divisions 2nd Brigade at Fort Sam Houston trained units of the Louisiana National Guard during their annual training at Fort Polk in July 2003.

The 1-156 Armor Battalion trained on lanes the first week and on gunnery the second week. The scouts fired .50 caliber machine guns from their HUMVEES, and 240 B machine guns at the table gunnery range. With the help of the 3/395th OCs, the scouts improved their proficiency each day.

Lt. Col. Mark Creviston, 3/395th Battalion Commander, said, "They (scouts) are doing great. The goal is if they learn something new every day – it's good. And their gunnery has improved every day."

HUMVEES sped down the ranges in bounding overmatch as gunners scanned the horizon looking for targets. As soon as a target popped up, the deafening bang of the .50

caliber pierced the air as the gunners engaged their targets with a steady stream of lead.

Asked how the division was helping the scouts, Capt. Jeff Howard, 3/395th, said, "We are



Sgt. 1st Class Brian Allen, 3/395 (AR), gets up and close to a 240 B machine gunner.

bringing a level of expertise from the Staff and Sgt. 1st Class rank of scouting that the unit doesn't have. Our NCOs are training their NCOs to be leaders."

This was evident when Sgt. 1st Class Brian Allen accompanied the scouts on a patrol. Allen ensured that the scout patrol leader went through his troop leading procedures. The patrol moved stealthily in Ranger file on their combat patrol, and Allen positioned himself where he could mentor the scout patrol leader.

At the objective, the scouts successfully engaged targets with the 240 B machine gun and rifle fire and then popped smoke to cover their



A .50 cal gunner pours hot lead at a target.

withdrawal.



Sgt. Scott Ford and Staff Sgt. Mark Wooden discuss the AVLB.

The soldiers of the 2nd Brigade train engineers of the 1088th Engineer Battalion who build bridges and use demolitions. The mission of the unit is to conduct mobility, counter mobility, and survivability. They are also equipped with the class 60 bridge.

Lt. Col. Randy Ducote, Battalion Commander 1088th EN BN, said, “We have a really good relationship with the 75th. The 75th soldiers at my headquarters provide good training and support.”

Lt. Col. Peter Laky, 1/395th (EN) TSBn, said, “Although the line companies are not receiving a TAM, we brought a full compliment of OCs to support the training opportunity.”



Lt. Col. Mark Creviston, 3/395th (AR), discusses gunnery training.

Staff Sgt. Arthur Bourget and Staff Sgt. Mark Wooden, 1/395th (EN) TSBn, spent two weeks with the 1088th as they repeatedly practice launching the Amored Vehicular Launch Bridge

(AVLB) over wide trenches in the fields of Fort Polk.

This training is essential to their support of the 256IN BDE, to be prepared to breach obstacles which could be rivers in a combat area.

Under the watchful eyes of Bourget and Wooden, the 1088th progressed from novices to experts in using the AVLB.

The engineers also trained Alpha Company of the 1088th on wiring, setting up and exploding C4 explosives. The OCs from the 1/395th observed the soldiers as they practiced wiring the explosives and gave them instructions on how to do it correctly.

Once the OCs believed the unit was ready for the real thing, the unit went to the lane to set off the explosives.



Staff Sgt. Scott Smith, 1/395th EN, observes two soldiers of the Louisiana National Guard practicing wiring explosives.

At the obstacle, the OCs carefully observed the soldiers preparing the live explosives. The company NCOIC prepared the blasting cap and detonating cord and everyone scabbled back to the APC-113s and battened down the hatches.

Even with the engine of the APC-113 roaring, the boom of the explosion could be heard along with the debris hitting the outside of the APC-113.

It was the end to a successful mission and annual training. “Their performance was outstanding. They were really motivated and pumped,” said Howard.

Commander's Conference 2003



Story and photos by Spc. Suzy Drumwright, Staff Writer



Maj. Gen. Dalby, Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry Blair and Col. Jose Vallejo.



Command and staff discuss issues at the conference.



Dancers cut loose on the dance floor during the Dining Out.



Members of the Family Readiness Group participate in briefings of their own at the conference.



Col. Alfred Dochnal holds up a photo and coins presented to him at the conference.

The Commander's Conference 2003 was held at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas from Aug. 3 to Aug. 10. Commanders and senior staff from the 75th Division (Training Support) gathered for one week to review issues expressed by Maj. Gen. Perry Dalby and soldiers of the division.

Although it was mostly work, with numerous briefings and topics being discussed, participants also found time for a little play.

Maj. Gen. Perry Dalby got the highest score in the golf tournament on August 7 and his team which included Col. Jefferson Ewing, 4th Brigade commander, Col. Gasper Gullotta, 3rd Brigade commander and Col. Alfred Dochnal, 2nd Brigade commander won the trophy for first place.

On August 8, the participants awoke bright and early for the commanding general's 2-mile run.



Maj. Gen. Perry Dalby gives a high five to Col. Jefferson Ewing during the conference golf tournament.



Division commanders and staff take part in the CG's run during the Commander's Conference.



(From left) Col. Jefferson Ewing, Col. Gasper Gullotta, Col. Alfred Dochnal and Maj. Gen. Perry Dalby hold up the Golf Tournament trophy during the Commanders' Conference in San Antonio.



On the evening of Aug. 8, everyone gathered at the NCO Club for the Dining Out. It was an evening of good food and for some, dancing.

But first, everyone listened to the guest speaker and novelist, T.R. Fahrenbach as he talked about his days in the Army during World War II.

The last days were spent attending even more briefings.

Military spouses were no exception. The Family Readiness Group gathered to discuss numerous topics of their own.

A prayer breakfast was slipped in on Sunday morning with a perfect sermon by retired Chaplain Brig. Gen. Jim Spivey, who held the audience captive with his words.

Participants wrapped it up Sunday afternoon after a delightful brunch that included anything and everything the palate might desire, recognizing the work of a few personnel and handing out gifts and awards where merited.



Participants listen during briefings at the conference.



Spc. Jeremy Ricci, from 3rd BDE HQs, dances with Lt. Col. Pamela Weisharr, XO of 3rd BDE HQs, during the Dining Out.



Members of the head table stand during the posting of the colors at the Dining Out.

SOLDIERS TRAIN FOR NOBLE EAGLE

By Spc. Jamie Bender, Public Affairs Specialist

More than 400 National Guard soldiers were trained for Operation Noble Eagle at Camp Funston during a four-day period last week.

The soldiers of 110th Engineer Battalion, Missouri National Guard and 127th Field Artillery, Kansas National Guard will be providing gate security for Army posts as part of the rise in security due to the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

The 1st Battalion, 383rd Regiment (Training Support), a Reserve unit from Des Moines, Iowa, provided the training.

Soldiers trained on several different tasks including personnel search, vehicle search, establishing a checkpoint, securing a facility, responding to a bomb threat and reacting to a suspected explosive device. Soldiers were also trained on conducting a mounted security patrol, reacting to attempted forced entry and reacting to chemical alert and treating and evaluating casualties.

"The four days they were here, they rotated through eight different stations," said Maj. Thomas Dollans, officer in charge, 1st Bn., 383rd Reg. "They rotated every four hours. They did either an individual task or a collective task. Some of the collective tasks were either at squad level or platoon level."

The training was challenging for the soldiers in more than just the tasks set for them.

"For some of them, it's that they don't usually get the training in a realistic environment," said Dollans. "They are used to doing it in a classroom or in a common task training type level. When it's all thrown at them at once and they have to do multiple CTT tasks on different individuals at the same time, it's more difficult for them to manage, especially when someone is in charge and they have to direct and supervise the different tasks all at once."

"It's a whole different thought process," added Sgt. 1st Class Scott Heckart, 1st Bn., 383rd Reg. "As opposed to doing stand-alone

training, they have to do more interaction and direct their own crews."

The training involved a variety of situations for the soldiers, said Dollans.

"They had to switch gears between being in a totally tactical type situation to one where you had to be interacting with civilians on the battlefield, where there really is no right or wrong answers. It just depends on the way you react to it."

The soldiers were also given techniques to deal with situations they may encounter on their mission.

"You can't go in acting aggressively, like it's a combat mission — you have to go in with the idea that you're not going to escalate the situation," said Dollans. "You're going to find out the information, calmly process everything and not get people into a defensive posture. It's difficult if your not used to doing that sort of thing."

"(The soldiers will) also have to deal with irate people. They are going to have situations at the gate where people forget their ID cards or, for whatever reason, they are being denied access, or they are want to search a vehicle and they don't have time. They are going to have to work through those issues and how they are going to deal with those individuals."

The training held some challenges for the trainers as well.

"These are MP related tasks that we aren't used to doing," said Dollans. "We had to really dig into the force protection handbook and develop specific guidance for some of these missions."

"There is no strict Army doctrine that you can pull off the shelf and use. You have to develop it to fit the situation," added Heckart. "We had full support from the military police team from 3rd Battalion, 383rd Regiment.

"Without them we wouldn't have made it."

Division Unit Assistors

1/395th Helps Mobilize Guard Unit

By Lt. Col. Peter G. Laky and Capt. Danny C. Fitch

On December 26, 2002, the company of Observer Controller/Trainers from the 1st Battalion, 395th Regiment received the mission to conduct unit assistance for the mobilization of the 1438th Engineer Company, a multi-role bridge company of the Missouri National Guard based out of Rolla, Mo.

By Fifth United States Army standard operating procedures, Unit Assistors are usually assigned to mobilizing reserve units and when possible, are tasked from Training Support XXI Training Support Battalions (TSBn) normally associated with the unit.

The first order of

business was to deploy to the company's three armories to get an initial assessment of the unit's current personnel strength, equipment status, DMOSQ shortfalls, critical MOS shortages, and non-deployable percentages.

After the initial assessment, the Unit Assistors looked at other areas such as their drivers' training status, whether MWOs had been completed on their weapons, masks, and other equipment, what the status was of their BII and sub-hand receipts and whether or not they had all of their MTOE equipment.

The compatibility of the unit with an active component unit

also needed to be determined. The company's compliance with FORSCOM Regulation 500-3-3, the Reserve Component Unit Commander's Handbook (RCUCH) needed to be checked as well.

The biggest shortfall of the entire mobilization was the unit's shortage of DMOSQ 12Cs, Bridge Crewmen. Of an authorized strength of 183, the unit had 113 deployable personnel. The 35th Engineer Brigade of the Missouri National Guard immediately set upon a plan to bring the company up to strength by soliciting volunteers from other units within the bri-

gade. There were plenty of volunteers, just not enough DMOSQ 12Cs.

To make up for the shortfall, approximately 30 soldiers were sent to special 2-week courses at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to become qualified as 12Cs. There also were other courses set up to qualify some of the unit's low-density MOS personnel.

This had an effect on post-mobilization training and getting the unit into theater in a timely manner. These personnel also had to go through SRP, weapons qualification, mandatory training, and Common Task Training.

The impact was long lasting as the last





24 bridge crewmen graduated from the MOS conversion course

February 22, 58 days after the unit was alerted for mobilization. Unit assistors helped mitigate the effects of the DMOSQ shortfall by helping identify the problem early after alert, helping to coordinate for the MOS conversion courses, and keeping detailed, by-name records of every soldier's progression to meeting all training and SRP requirements toward unit validation for deployment.

Another major challenge that immediately came to light was the unit's lack of qualified drivers for its

equipment. Within the past year, the company had received new M1977 bridge transporter trucks to replace their old 5-ton series trucks. The company had limited driver's training with these trucks, so training would be a priority for post-mobilization.

This would have a second order effect on post-mobilization training because collective training could not be conducted if there were not enough personnel to operate the trucks. Unit Assistors helped identify the driver training requirement early after the unit was alerted and coordinated with the mobilization installation to

schedule and resource the driver's training in the key system, the bridge transporters.

Another hurdle was funding. The unit had submitted numerous requisitions before and during the alert phase, but all of these requisitions were cancelled by the state once the unit came over to the federal side. These requisitions had to be re-submitted through the TSB and DOL at Fort Leonard Wood. Unit assistors served as liaisons to raise the issue to the appropriate personnel at the mobilization installation and Fifth United States Army levels.

These are only a few of the issues that

had to be worked through during the mobilization process. The bottom line is that the duty of the Unit Assistor is to help the National Guard or Reserve unit get over the many speed bumps that will appear during mobilization.

Prior planning and preparation by the unit and its Training Support Battalion can help, but some issues the unit will need additional help with. This is where the Unit Assistor becomes an invaluable asset. Helping the unit leadership avoid distraction by small problems allows them to stay focused on training and preparing for war.

Achtung, baby!

Division Soldiers Compete for German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge

Story by Spc. Susan Redwine, Staff Writer

Division soldiers competed for the prestigious German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge at Fort Sill, Okla., May 8 – 10, 2003. All six soldiers from the division who competed earned the highest level, the gold badge.

The German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge consists of sporting events from the German Sports Badge competition that is available for civilians, plus first aid proficiency, marksmanship, a road march and an evaluation from a superior, said Lt. Col. Norbert Koeser, officer in command at the German Artillery Liaison

Office at Fort Sill.

The badge has been an official requirement in the German army since 1970, and competition for the badge started at Fort Sill in 2001 where Koeser has been overseeing it, he said.

Soldiers from the 75th Division caught on to the competition when they saw members of the 95th competing for the badge last year. Several decided they would like to take on the challenge.

Five soldiers from 1-382d (LS), 4th BDE, and one soldier from 2d SEG, 1st BDE competed for the badge. Soldiers

competing from the 1-382d were Command Sgt. Maj. Deral Adams, Sgt. 1st Class Christina Upton, Staff Sgt. Tamiko Riggs, Staff Sgt. Roy Phillips and Staff Sgt. John Savoy, and from 1st BDE was Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry Shoopman.

The competition includes a 100-meter swim, 2-mile run, 100-meter dash, shot put, high jump, 9 mm pistol shoot, and a 12-mile road march.

Soldiers are generally fit enough to earn the badge, but some of the events require other skills than those required for the APFT. Training began months before the competition for members of both the 75th and the 95th. Command Sgt. Maj. Deral Adams said he and the others who were going to compete checked out the high jump and other track and field equipment and had it at the unit to practice with.

Sgt. 1st Class Christina Upton said she has traditionally done very well on the PT test in her 17 years in the Army Reserve, and has always been athletic. However, she didn't have experience in some of the events, like the swim, high jump and shot put.

"I like long-distance running. I'd never done the other stuff before – it was new



Staff Sgt. Phillips, 1/382 LSB, qualifies with the 9 mm as Lt. Col. Koeser, German Liaison, evaluates the shots through binoculars.



Participants in the May competition (from left to right): Lt. Col. Norbert Koser (German Liaison), Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry B Shoopman, Capt. Ivan E. Ramos, Master Sgt. Jay D. Moore, Command Sgt. Maj. Deral Adams, Staff Sgt. John M. Savoy, Staff Sgt. Tamiko Riggs, Spc. Daniel O. Moreno, Sgt. 1st Class Christina D. Upton, Staff Sgt. Roy A Phillips, Spc. April M. Rowell, Maj. Steven E Summy, Master Sgt. Lawrence Clements, Command Sgt. Maj. Thilo Gnoerich (German Liaison).

and challenging but it got easier with practice,” said Upton.

“You can’t just walk on and do it – if your body’s not used to it, you’re not going to make it. You have to work at it.”

For some, the swim event proves to be a challenge. Adams said he found the swim

to be the most difficult event.

“I didn’t think you could sweat in a pool, but you can,” said Adams.

Staff Sgt. Roy Phillips said he got involved in the competition late and only had a few weeks to train.

“I hadn’t really swam in 25 years,” said Phillips. “It took me awhile to get into the swing of things.”

The road march was among the most memorable events for the soldiers competing because of the support from other soldiers in the unit who came out early on a Saturday morning to cheer the competitors on.

The road march was done on a 3-mile track. Soldiers from the unit came out before 5 a.m. to set up water points on either side of the track, said Adams. Some of the soldiers walked the whole course with those competing for the badge.

“We had a lot of support from our unit. If it had not been for the other soldiers, I wouldn’t have made it,” said Upton.

She said soldiers called out cadences and kept her encouraged so that she finished strong.

“The support we received from the unit says a lot about our unit,” said Upton.

Koeser said he likes to put on the competition at Fort Sill and enjoys the comradeship it creates between the German and American soldiers.

“We can show them something and they can show us something,” said Koeser. “Each of us learns from the other – it’s good.”

The competition is held at Fort Sill whenever there are enough soldiers interested. Contact Lt. Col. Koeser or Command Sgt. Maj. Adams for details.



Sgt. 1st Class Upton pushes to finish the 12-mile road march, along with fellow soldiers Sgt. 1st Class Cordero, Sgt. 1st Class Barned, Spc. Jennings, supporting her.

Mission Possible

2nd Brigade, 75th Division(TS) enhances combat readiness at Ft. Chaffee, Ark.

Story and photos by Spc. Suzy Drumwright, Staff Writer



Observer/Controllers from 2nd Brigade, 75th Division (Training Support) taught a mission rehearsal exercise to 2832 National Guard soldiers of the 39th enhanced Separate Brigade in June 2003 at Fort Chaffee, Ark.

Soldiers of the 39th eSB learned strategic combat skills by performing hands-on training in the field. They were instructed how to defend themselves from attacks day and night by opposition forces. The OPFOR used artillery, dismounted attacks, direct fire systems, tow missile systems and UH1s to take out the 39th's logistic supply lines.

The 39th attacked the enemy with close air support from the Air Force and BLUEFOR teams. They used blackhawks, M1 tanks, M2 Bradley fighting vehicles and aid from the artillery battery, long range surveillance attachment and 2nd Brigade.

The 39th eSB spent two weeks at Fort Chaffee gathering the necessary skills they needed to recommence training at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk.

"We try to create a training environment so that when they go to JRTC and Fort Polk they have been provided with the most realistic training possible for combat," said Lt. Col. Ronald Millis, commander of the 1/381st IN (TS).

Soldiers performed many tasks to include ground movements, air assaults, assault landings, how to secure lodgment, clear enemies from the area, attack enemies using movement and contact techniques and denied enemies to pass beyond a certain point. They performed live fire exercises with a 105mm howitzer that they fired into the impact areas and they received F16 close air support from the Air Force.

Their mission was clear. The O/Cs from 2nd Brigade trained the National Guard soldiers of the 39th eSB to enhance their abilities and increase their combat readiness.

"We gave them everything they are going to experience at JRTC in just a few days. We gave them the physical and mental aspects from

mood swings on down the line where in the past they have never experienced that before. We take them to the edge and train them to go right into the battlefield," said Col. Alfred Dochnal, commander of 2nd Brigade.

Although the training left soldiers soiled and worn out from the constant and demanding activities, after it was over, they felt they were more qualified in their combat skills.

"It's been fun, hot but fun. I wish there was even more action, but it's been great," laughed Spc. Logan Brown, an infantryman from 3/153rd, as he cleaned his weapon on the evening after returning from the field.

Although the MRE was a significant part of preparing the 39th eSB for combat, their training doesn't end there.

"We have had a habitual training relationship (with the 39th) for many years. We are preparing them for more advanced training to be held in 2004 at JRTC. We follow and train them all the way through for combat," said Millis.



Lt. Col. Ronald Millis (left) and Col. Alfred Dochnal study training sites at Ft. Chaffee, Ark.

Soldiers Training Soldiers

2/395th Train National Guard Soldiers For Deployment Overseas

by Spc. Suzy Drumwright, Staff Writer

Observer/Controllers from the 2/395th, 2nd Brigade Regiment (Field Artillery), 75th Division (Training Support) trained and prepared National Guard soldiers from the 1/133rd Infantry Division for deployment to Sinai, Egypt in June 2003 at Fort Carson, Co.

Lt. Col. John Siggelow, commander of the 2/395th, CW2 Joshua Sparrow, project officer and Sgt. 1st Class James Johnson, NCOIC, were the three key components in setting up and implementing the Multinational Force and Observers mission.

Before the exercise began, Siggelow traveled to Sinai to interview soldiers from the last training cycle to validate the training program and gather ideas for his upcoming mission.

"I asked questions about how to change the training for the better, brought back those ideas and implemented those changes," he said.

He spent ten days in Sinai discovering new ways to make the training better. Sparrow and



Lt. Col. John Siggelow speaks during an after action review at Fort Carson, Colo.



CW2 Joshua Sparrow (center) listens during the after action review at Fort Carson, Colo.



Lt. Col. John Siggelow teaches 75th soldiers how to be civilians on the battlefield for their mock training exercises.

Johnson then put together the training plan, produced all the training products, developed the exercise control center and the communications system, said Siggelow.

When the O/Cs first arrived at Fort Carson, they had no buildings to use or equipment on hand. Getting everything together was difficult.

“I’ve spent the last seven months coordinating this mission. We had to set up the training, classes, instructors, lodging, computers, LAN settings and training aides,” said Johnson.

The months that Johnson and Sparrow spent on planning and executing the mission eased the task for their fellow O/Cs.

“Because they coordinated this mission, the rest of the battalion could focus on other annual training events for soldiers,” said Siggelow.

Siggelow also brought back photos of the sites in Sinai

and then had the sites reconstructed at Fort Carson to make the training more realistic.

“They had to learn vehicle and aircraft identification, what to do in case of crashes, threats, mass casualty accidents and threats of the provision treaty,” said Siggelow.

Although the O/Cs have trained units in the past, this mission was especially impor-

tant because it was the first time they were preparing soldiers for a non-homeland defense mobilization.

“This one is very high visibility. The enthusiasm from the task force has been really rewarding,” said Sparrow.

“The training was informative and fun. It’ll save me from getting killed over there,” said Spc. Jacob Pedersen, a National Guard soldier with the 1/133rd out of Waterloo, Iowa.

The O/Cs believe the training went well and the National Guard soldiers of the 1/133rd are ready to hone their skills in Sinai.

“The worst part of the mission was having to deal with all the moving parts. There are so many different agencies and assets. We had to get everyone focused on the same team,” said Sparrow.

“The planning is the hard part. The actual training on the ground is just doing it,” said Johnson.



Sgt. 1st Class Lee Smith with the 2/389th inspects the link count on a sling leg during training at Fort Carson, Colo.

Dealing with Iraq's Biological Threat

1/289th, 4th BDE, mobilizes 375th Chemical Company (BIDS) at Fort McClellan

Story and photos by Maj. Wayne Marotto

The signal was given and the soldiers quickly battened down the hatches and settled themselves in their vehicles as they started their mission to detect what deadly biological agent was floating through the air. Their vehicles were crammed with bio detection equipment, laptops, radios, and MREs.

Billowing white clouds of smoke drifted towards them as the soldiers anxiously waited for their equipment to detect what agent was outside their vehicle and was literally being sucked into their biological detection equipment.

No, this was not Iraq, but a training area at Fort McClellan, Ala., where a Chemical Team of

company.

Prior to the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, there was a grave fear that Saddam Hussein would use biological and chemical weapons against U.S. soldiers. U.S. and foreign intelligence reported that there was a real danger that Hussein would use chemical agents such as sarin, cyclosarin, mustard, and VX. Anthrax, aflatoxin, botulinum toxin, small pox and ricin were also amongst his biological weapons.

Although the Iraqis have not used biological or chemical agents, combatant commanders have to be prepared to have chemical units in the theater.

One of these units was the 375th Chemical Company (BIDS), an Army Reserve unit that was mobilized May 17, 2003. It is one of the newest and highest priority biological detection units in the Army.

The 75th DIV (TS) was given the task to mobilize, train and validate the Army's newest biological detection unit. An OC/T team from the 1/289th IN REGT, 4th BDE, spent from June 24, 2003 to Nov. 10, 2003 at Fort McClellan mobilizing the 375th Chemical Company (BIDS).

BIDS stands for Biological Integrated Detection System. There are four BIDS units in the Army, two are in the active component and two are in the reserve component. The BIDS mission is to "protect troops and provide presumptive identification of biological agents," said Williams.

The company would normally locate in the Corps Support Area (CSA) and would be a corps asset. They would set up their vehicles and equipment in order to detect aerosol biological agents. If they detected agents they would notify the corps chemical officer of the find. Then the Army could take measures to treat for the agent.



Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Isaac inspects a soldier's fighting position and offers suggestions for improvement.

OC/Ts from the 1/289th IN REGT, 4th BDE was mobilizing and validating the 375th CM CO (BIDS).

A non-toxic biological agent stimulant had been sprayed near the area of operation so that the company could practice using their new detection equipment.

"We are like any combat service unit in the Army. We are out to protect the troops and detect biological agents," said Capt. Wendy Williams, the company commander of the 218-soldier

The 375th was training on some of the newest equipment in the Army. “The 375th has had a lot of new equipment put on them, and a new TO&E because they were a smoke unit before they were converted into a BIDS unit,”



Capt. Jonathan L. Jackson talks through a sand table.

said Capt. Jonathan L. Jackson, Lane One OIC.

The 1/289th did not train the 375th on the technical aspects of the BIDS equipment. Civilians from the Soldier Biological Chemical Command (SBCCOM) trained the 375th on the new BIDS equipment over a two-week course at Fort McClellan.

Staff Sgt. Tito Rodriguez was an observer in the fifteen-day course with the soldiers of the 375th.

“They have done a great job. Their classroom academic average was a 98 percent on the BIDS technical part. This is an intelligent group,” Rodriguez said.

Once the classroom instruction was completed the 1/289th took the 375th out to the field and conducted tactical training.

“The OCs trained us on the tactical side of the house. How to react to an ambush, conduct a convoy, and respond and react to a chemical attack,” Williams said. This training was part of their validation requirement before they were to be deployed to the Iraq.

The BIDS Company convoyed out into the field and set up an area of operations. The OC/Ts

of the 1/289th validated the company on their convoy and quartering party operations. The chemical soldiers prepared hasty fighting positions as the OC/Ts gave them instruction on how to prepare and defend their assembly area.

The 1/289th Opposing Forces (OPFOR) were part of the lanes training exercise. One scenario involved the capture of an OPFOR. The OC/Ts observed the chemical company soldiers properly handle enemy prisoners of war and captured materials. The OPFOR also assaulted the company’s position on two occasions.

Spc. Todd Ross, BIDS specialist monitor, said, “The OPFOR play was good.” He added that he would have like to seen more OPFOR attacks. Sgt. 1st Class

Phillip Isaac said that the chemical company prepared their hasty fighting positions to standard and were a go on following proper procedure on handling EPWs.

Maj. Roberto Sanchez, collective training OIC, said, “The training offered by the 75th was



Pfc. Terry Vest, 375th BIDS, covers his captive ‘enemy,’ **Sgt. 1st Class Tomas Benavides, OPFOR.**

just part of the collective training to prepare them for deployment.”

“Deterrence is another big asset of BIDS. You will think twice before releasing agents,” Williams said.

CG Leads 4th of July Celebration

Story and photos by Spc. Susan Redwine

It's a warm summer day, and folks are getting out the lawn furniture and filling coolers. Kids are decorating their bikes with crepe paper and streamers. Red, white and blue flashes everywhere, garnishing people, store fronts and cars, making the small town feel of down-home, apple-pie America. Families stake out areas of sidewalk with their lawn chairs in an historic heartland town where people are known for independence and pride in where they come from. It's hard to imagine a more picturesque display of patriotism than a Fourth of July parade in Belton, Texas. With such enthusiasm for the American Spirit, it is fitting that the 75th Division (Training Support) lent its presence to this year's parade.

The day began with remarks on the Bell County Courthouse steps by Dwayne Digby, mayor of Belton, and Congressman Chet Edwards to an eager and festive crowd. This was followed by a speech Maj. Gen. Perry Dalby, commanding general of the 75th Division, resident of Belton, and this year's grand marshal of Belton's Fourth of July parade.

Keeping with Belton tradition, the sheriff's posse lead the parade on horseback. Following the sheriff's posse was the color guard from the



Grand Marshal Maj. Gen. Dalby greets the crowd.

75th, lead the Army contingent in the parade. Humvees with division emblems and flags slowly drove along the route bearing the VIPs from the division and the brigades.

Grand Marshal Dalby was in the lead humvee, standing and waving to the exuberant



The 75th Division helps kick off the Belton Fourth of July parade with a group of humvees.

crowd. Marching behind the humvees were soldiers from 13th COSCOM and the First Cavalry Division Band, which played rousing, patriotic tunes. Following the band began the non-military element of the parade.

Area residents were enthusiastic about the presence of the military in this year's parade.

"I think the military should be in the parade. It's very good to show the people the existence of the military...and the impact it has on the economy and that we're just welcome to have Fort Hood here," said Gene Pavlat, a resident of Temple, Texas, who has been coming to the parade since the 1950s.

"I think people have a heightened awareness of the appreciation that we need to have for the people that serve our country. I think that people are truly beginning to understand...and they really appreciate it," said Leshia Toliver, a Belton resident enjoying the parade with her husband, 3-year old daughter, and parents.

"I think since 9/11 it's a lot more patriotic. The parade's come back even more; there's been more participation by the people. This is a huge crowd compared to some years," said Leshia's husband Kurt Toliver.

The Tolivers have been coming to the parade for years. Leshia hasn't missed a single Fourth of July parade in Belton since she was born. She inherited her parade-going tradition from her mother, Norma Payne, who lives in Temple.



BellCounty courthouse.

"I've only missed one in my life, and I'm 62, and I was out of state then, that's the only reason I missed it. So that's a long time," said Payne.

Some people have been coming to the parade long enough to have found the best place to sit and watch the festivities.



Soldiers greet a patriotic wagon train.

Gene Pavlat and his wife Charlene were sitting in the back of their pick-up truck under the shade of a large tree about a block away from the main parade route, but still within sight of the parade.

"It's hard to find a good spot here, and we got a tree here, but it took several years to find this location," said Pavlat. "We've looked at it from several different points, and obviously this is the most enjoyable place to have it, to see the parade from under the tree."

The Belton parade has a long tradition and a loyal following among the locals. The participation of the military in this year's parade was obviously appreciated by spectators as the vehicles rolled by. Shouts of "Good job," "we love our military," and "thank you," came from everywhere along the parade route, showing how much ordinary citizens value the U.S. Army.



Maj. Gen. Dalby and the 75th Division color guard.



Readiness In The Making

A look at annual training and O/Cs from the 2/291st Aviation Regiment and 2/289th Multiple Launch Rocket Systems Training Support Battalion.

Story and photos by Spc. Suzy Drumwright, Staff Writer



From Left: Lt. Col. Jeff Marlette, BN commander of the 2/147th, Staff Sgt. Mike Wiley from the 2/147th, Maj. Gen. Perry Dalby, Lt. Col. David Hollands, G3 operations branch chief, and Capt. Mike Gergen, General Dalby's aide, discuss operations at Camp Guernsey, Wyo.

“If you don’t train your soldiers, you’re wrong,” said Sgt. 1st Class Remie Kliebert, operations sergeant and observer/controller with the 2/291st Aviation Regiment out of Fort Riley, Kan.

O/Cs of the 2/291st and 2/289th not only trained but mentored, taught and coached soldiers of the 2/147th Multiple Launch Rocket Systems and soldiers of the 1/135th Aviation Regiment in June 2003 at Camp Guernsey, Wyo.

“I used to be a platoon sergeant and I didn’t want to go tell some mother and father that their kid had died due to lack of proper training. If you don’t train your soldiers, you’re wrong,” he repeated.

Kliebert and other O/Cs in the 2/291st were teaching soldiers of the 1/135th not only about aviation techniques but also skills such as air movement operations, nuclear, biological and chemical training, securing and defending assemblies, tactical



Maj. Gen. Perry Dalby suits up for an aerial tour of Camp Guernsey, Wyo.



An after action review is conducted in the field at Camp Guernsey, Wyo.



Spc. Michael Reiprich (left), intelligence specialist, and Sgt. 1st Class Brad Bynum, fire direction observer controller with the 2/289th, transmit information to other levels digitally through a computer system.

operations center and forward area refueling/rearm point operations, unit level maintenance and quick reactionary forces.

These O/Cs of the 75th not only trained the units, but also took the training to heart while they did it.

“We have a very important mission here. It is very important that we keep them at a high state of readiness because they are at a priority status to be called up during wartime,” said Maj. Richard Little, battalion XO with the 2/289th MLRS TSBN.

O/Cs from the 2/289th MLRS worked with O/Cs from the 2/147th MLRS by

making comments on their performance, providing feedback on areas that needed improvement and giving advice on how to go about their duties, but most importantly they taught, coached and mentored, said Little.

In the field the Tactical Operations Center is the main hubbub for the battalion. The TOC is divided into three sections.

The Operations Center is where data is processed from the brigade level and disseminated to the firing batteries. What’s going on in the battlefield, where to move to next and any guidance

needed is disseminated to the units on the battlefield.

At the Fire Direction Center, they learn how to receive fire commands and missions through an advanced field artillery tactical data system, then they perform tactical fire control. With the information, they select which target is the best one to fire upon.

At the Intelligence Center, they receive intelligence data, analyze it, decide what the enemy units are doing and predict and send it to the batteries. Whatever goes on in the batteries is consolidated into the TOC and the data is

passed up to the brigade hub center.

Units trained by the O/Cs also feel the connection with their mentors and say they have a great working relationship.

“We’ve always had outstanding support from TSB. They have educated eyes which help us pile up things that we could do better. They bring experience and technical assistance. Staff level officers have good insight on how we do TOCS. We don’t

even consider doing annual training without them,” said Lt. Col. Jeff Marlette, battalion commander of the 2/147th MLRS.

Maj. Gen. Perry Dalby traveled to Camp Guernsey to observe the training that the O/Cs were conducting. While there, he received a firsthand tour of the sites including an aerial tour from the aviation regiment.

“I can proudly say that the readiness of these units has tremendously improved. The O/Cs understand their mission and the importance of the training of their soldiers,” said Dalby.

Battle Staff Course Comes to Houston

Story and photo by Spc. Susan Redwine

The Battle Staff Noncommissioned Officer Course made a rare trip away from its home at the Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas, in order to teach NCOs at the 75th Division (Training Support) Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment in June.

The 21-day class teaches the function of the tactical operations center and teaches NCOs how to receive and analyze information, and make recommendations so that they will be able to assist the commander on the battlefield, said Master Sgt. Anthony A. Jackson, one of the course instructors.

“We are planners, coordinators and communicators of the mission and the commander’s intentions. We cannot win a battle, but failure to do our job properly will lose a battle,” said Jackson.

Although the course is taught to soldiers overseas through video teletraining, this class was unique in that the teacher and all the teaching materials came to a different unit to teach the course, said Jackson. Even more unusual is that the class came to a reserve unit.

When interest in getting NCOs battle-staff trained came up in the 1st Brigade, it was decided that getting two instructors to come to Houston would be more cost-effective than sending 29 soldiers to Fort Bliss, said Command Sgt. Maj. Pasqual Castro of the 1st Brigade.

The most difficult part about getting the course taught in Houston was the logistics of it – where and how to house the instructors, and what facilities would be used for the class, said Castro. Once the logistics were worked out, it was not hard to talk the instructors into going to Houston.

“They feel privileged to come here and teach the Reserve, which is good because we’re one team, one Army, one standard. Even though we’re reserve and they’re active component, it’s



Master Sgt. Jerry L. Eddin concentrates on map overlays during a Battle Staff Course exam.

good to have them – it’s good for them to give us their active duty training, which we need,” said battle staff course student Master Sgt. Jerry L. Eddin, G3 NCOIC at the 75th DIV (TS).

Castro said the Battle Staff Course is an excellent course that is challenging, demanding, and puts lots of pressure on the students.

“Battle Staff is not a required course for NCOs for promotion, but it does set them apart from their peer group because that is a tough course,” said Castro.

This training makes the soldier more valuable to any unit, especially on the operations and training side of the house, said Castro.

Although the course is difficult and intensive, both Jackson and Eddin said that teamwork was important for the success of the students in the class.

“Everybody works together here. If you don’t, then you fall by the wayside,” said Eddin.

Feedback about the course was positive from all those involved, said Castro.

“It’s beneficial to the soldier. It’s beneficial to the unit. I’d love to see this one stay on the books for yearly training,” he said.

Jackson noted that NCOs generally have a great deal of experience to share and draw upon in their duties, which makes them an asset to the Army.

“NCOs are the backbone of the Army, they should be the backbone of the command post,” Jackson said. “We’re preparing to win the next war.”

Four Marriage Retreats Well-Received

Story by Chaplain (Col.) Harland Merriam

Sixty-nine couples from the 75th Division participated in three-day marriage retreats during August and September 2003. The events were held at hotels and conference centers in Kansas City, Houston, Oklahoma City, and San Antonio. Participants focused on developing better communication skills. Evaluations completed by the couples who participated spoke of the dramatic impact the retreats have had on their relationships. The retreats included lodging and meals and were offered at little or no cost to the couples.

Some of the topics covered in the retreats were: how to talk without fighting, understanding the differences between men and women, recognizing the danger signs in a relationship, learning how to honor your partner, problem solving, sexuality and intimacy, and discovering the real issues underneath the conflict. The major skill learned is called “the speaker – listener technique” that dramatically changes the depth and clarity of our conversations as husbands and wives and helps us stop spinning our wheels in our relationships.

The retreats were funded by Maj. Gen. Dalby as part of the Army’s commitment to help soldiers and families deal with the added stress of the current mobilizations. The division chaplains, chaplain assistants and their spouse



Participants register as they arrive to one of the division marriage retreats.

led the retreats. They are based on the very successful PREP Marriage Enrichment materials, which have been field-tested for several years on installations around the world. In the new training year, the Army has funded many more such opportunities for soldiers and spouses. In addition, opportunities for single soldiers are also provided.

Additional retreats will be offered in the 90th RRC region in the new training year. The division chaplain’s office will communicate these dates and locations as they are scheduled. Some will be coordinated with the 89th and 90th RRCs for broader area coverage of multiple units.

For additional information, contact the division chaplain, CH (COL) Harland Merriam.



A husband gives his wife a rose to try to spark some romance during one of the division marriage retreats.



A couple hones their communication skills during a marriage retreat.

Skinner Receives Outstanding Civil Service Award

Lisa Skinner, wife of Capt. Sam Skinner, 3rd Brigade, was awarded the Outstanding Civil Service Award by Brig. Gen. Walt Zink on September 17 at Fort Riley, Kan., for extraordinary meritorious civilian service and support of soldiers and families assigned to Fort Riley from October 1996 to September 2003.

Mrs. Skinner served as a Parent Teacher Association President for Fort Riley Elementary School, Mayor for Scott Place/Stone Court/Brick Row housing areas, Secretary and Business Manager for the Normandy/Kapaun Chapel Council, Master Instructor for Army Family Team Building, Family Readiness Group Leader for 1st Engineer Battalion, 937th Engineer Group and HHC, 3d Brigade, 75th Division (TS), Publicity Chairperson for Historical and Archaeological Society, Newsletter Chairperson



Lisa Skinner accepts the Outstanding Civil Service Award from Brig. Gen. Walt Zink in a ceremony at Fort Riley, Kan.

for 75th Division (TS) and was an active advisor for various programs under the Officers' and Civilians' Spouses Club.

Her genuine concern for others resulted in permanent enhancement to programs that support soldiers and their families. Her contributions and efforts have made a lasting and positive impact on the quality of life on all with whom she interacts. Mrs. Skinner is truly an exceptional and prominent ambassador for the 75th Division (Training Support) and the United States Army.

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Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle.

The 2/290th continues to perform Unit Assistor (UA) missions for the mobilization of client units covering a five state area and demobilization of 500 personnel for 10 units. The 2-290th provided traditional support of LANES/TAM during June and July of this year and OPFOR personnel for the JRTC rotation at Fort Chaffee, Ark. for the 39th eSB. The 2/290th also

provided 11B augmentation for Operation Highland Warrior (USMA) which entailed training West Point Cadets on tactical training at the squad and platoon level. Additionally, the 2/290th team personnel provided heavy weapons range support for engineers of the 205th ECB and 389th ECB and MAT team augmentation at Fort Polk. Finally, the 2/290th participated in 75th Div (TS) OPFOR Challenge competition at Fort Riley. The 2/290th continues to stand ready

3rd Brigade continued from page 15

ued their proud tradition of providing unparalleled excellence in client unit support during the summer months of 2003. Everyone in the AC/RC world knows about the June Annual Training season, but not everyone can cover an AT or execute a TAM evaluation with the same combat focus, realism and flair as the 2-291st Aviation Regiment. From the backwoods at Camp

Robinson, Ark., to the Black Hills of S.D.; from the wooded forests of Fort Lewis, Wash., to the rocky desert of Fort Bliss, Texas, 2-291st Unit Assistors and FAST Teams have been training soldiers throughout these summer months.

The unit witnessed the transformation of a marginal UH-60 Air Assault unit into a warfighting, combat-ready battalion whose

aircrews are now ever-ready to take to the air during a battalion-level field training exercise at Camp Guernsey, Wyo. One of the 2-291st's hallmarks is continuing support and they demonstrated this as they demobilized one Air MEDEVAC detachment returning from duty in Afghanistan and mobilized their replacement detachment, sharing information between both units in order to enhance survival in theater and the development of the returning unit's YTP.

Mobilization support continued for Operations Enduring Freedom, SFOR 14, and KFOR 5B with AIR MEDEVAC, Air Assault, and Aviation Intermediate Maintenance units – all put through tough validation exercises to sharpen their warfighting skills and prepare them for what lies ahead of them.

2-291st Aviation joined 1-291st Aviation and maximized training time and training dollars with support to the SFOR 14 Aviation Training Exercise at Fort Rucker, Ala. This simulation stresses the unit's staff as well as the aviation mission planning process, and effectively allows for retraining as necessary.

With an eye on the big picture, 2-291st representatives attended the Division Commander's Conference and others participated in the Fifth U.S. Army "Army Family Action Plan Conference", discussing important soldiers issues and providing recommendations to Maj. Gen. Clark.

At Fort Riley, Kan., the home roost of these flying keepers of Army standards, attention was kept on ensuring all administrative processes were accomplished in accordance with published guidance and regulations as evidenced by the remarkably high rating the unit received during the recent command inspection from the brigade staff.

3-382d Regiment

submitted by Maj. Glenn A. Kiesewetter, Battalion XO, and Capt. Nancy Torres, Battalion S-1

The 3/382 Logistical Support Battalion (SLB) had a busy summer supporting AT and mobilization support missions at various loca-

tions. The battalion was officially moved from Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., to Ft. Riley, Kan., in May 2003. Wrapping up the majority of mobilization support missions in late June, the LSB concentrated on supporting AT missions at traditional locations at Fort McCoy and Fort Chaffee.

During July, the LSB conducted a 100% inventory of its equipment and serviced the vehicles that had been in continuous use since the start of the mobilization. August saw the LSB preparing for support of demobilization activities and change of command.

Several people have also departed the command as well, opening the door to newcomers. On September 12, Lt. Col. Alan Proffitt assumed command from Lt. Col. Robert O'Leary. Proffitt is a TPU reservist and in his civilian life is coordinator of Graduate Studies and Assistant Professor of Engineering Technology at the University of Memphis. He has both a Master of Science and a Doctorate in Instrumental Sciences from the University of Arkansas.

Maj. Kiesewetter was also demobilized in September 2003, and was replaced by Maj. Brian Cook. Cook was originally the 3d Brigade, 75th Div (TS) S1 before joining the LSB to take charge as the new XO.

The interaction between the TSBns and the LSB during IDT status changed dramatically upon mobilization, with the conduct of multiple simultaneous missions from more than one Power Projection Platform. This mandated a brigade-level policy change and the development of a streamlined request form to allow the LSB to adjust to the increased OPTEMPO of mobilization mission support.

Currently, the LSB is gearing up to support future mobilization missions generated by Operation Iraqi Freedom II. The LSB stands ready and lives up to the 3rd Brigade's motto, "Prepare the Force."

1-383d Regiment

submitted by Lt. Col. George W. Covert Jr., Battalion Commander and Maj. Charles D. Miller, Battalion S-3

Following an intensive winter mobilization period, 1-383rd Training Support Battalion (TSBN) planned, prepared, and executed installation security training for 530 soldiers from the Missouri and Kansas Army National Guard.

This training event, called Operation Noble Eagle III, was conducted at Camp Forsyth, Fort Riley, Kan., June 10-13. Lanes training teams from 1-383rd TSBN (Des Moines), augmented by the MP Team, 3-383rd TSBn (St. Louis), conducted training on the following collective tasks: personnel and vehicle search, establish checkpoints, react with a quick reaction force, conduct mounted security patrols, treat and evacuate casualties, and react to a chemical alert.

Soldiers from the 110th Engineer Battalion, Belton, Mo., and 1-127 Field Artillery Battalion, Ottawa, Kan., participated in this training as part of their post-mobilization validation prior to assuming installation security duties at Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth, Fort Sill, and Fort Leonard Wood. These units are currently performing their security missions at these installations.

The Brigade also provided four soldiers (Sgt. 1st Class Swisher, Sgt. 1st Class Jones, Sgt. 1st Class Carthy and Sgt. 1st Class Peel) to assist in Operation Highland Warrior, the training of West Point cadets, June 23 to Aug. 10, 2003. Normally this annual mission is assigned to active duty units, but because of the current situation the training support divisions were requested to help. All five of the training support divisions sent personnel but the 75th Division had the largest contingent of personnel present. This was the first time that reservists had participated in this annual summer training event.

The USAR soldiers provided such superb training assistance to the overall operation, that the Commandant of Cadets, Brig. Gen. Brooks, commented that he would like to see USAR participation in this annual training event in the future.

Brooks also reenlisted Swisher and Peel on top of a mountain in the training area at West Point and gave each his general officer's coin.

Because of the importance that Brooks places on soldiers reenlisting, he suspended training for the platoon that Swisher and Peel were training for the time it took to reenlist and explain to the cadets the importance of soldiers reenlisting. More importantly, he commented on the dedication of these NCOs that were also reservists called up as citizen soldiers to serve their country when needed.

This had a significant impact on the cadets attending the reenlistment ceremony and not only how they thought about NCOs but also reservists. For a good many this was their first experience with soldiers reenlisting and the significance of the meaning behind the reenlistment of a soldier.

In the months surrounding the culminating training events of Operation Noble Eagle III and the OPFOR Challenge, 1-383rd TSBN focused its efforts on the commander's training priorities: duty MOS qualification, professional development schools, and OC/T internal training. Of note in the area of significant personal accomplishments, Maj. Gen. Dalby selected Capt. James W. George, HHD Commander, for the Division Safety Award for the Battalion's distinguished safety record from October 2002 through June 2003.

From July through mid-September, the Battalion released 29 soldiers from active duty. The remainder of the Battalion continues to support client unit demobilization operations and plan for future client unit mobilization and demobilization operations until further notice.

2-383d Regiment

submitted by Capt. Aaron C. Wellman, Battalion S-1

The 2-383d had a very exciting season preparing many units for deployment overseas. We sent our troops on Unit Assistor missions to various locations throughout the United States. From California to Georgia and various points in between, the "Second to None" battalion represented the brigade superbly.

Back at our home station of Fort Riley, our soldiers created the Force Protection Lanes

Training Exercise that creates realistic scenarios for our client units to navigate. We trained several thousand soldiers to shoot, move, and communicate in a combat environment.

Our current mission is to prepare for our capstone exercise in June 2004 known as "Dependable Focus 2004". We will be training several client units in the regeneration and resupply operations over a three-week period.

Also, the "Second to None" battalion is leading the way as the first battalion to stand up a new task force known as Task Force Dependable Watch. This task force will be comprised of not only soldiers from the second battalion, but also from first and third battalion as well. This highly motivated group of soldiers will prepare the newly mobilized client units for service in Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Kosovo, Bosnia, and Iraq.

The optempo has been high but the results have yielded nothing less than excellence. With Dependable Focus 2004 and the stand up of Task Force Dependable Watch, soldiers in the National Guard and Army Reserve are guaranteed to receive training that is "SECOND TO NONE"!

3-383d Regiment

submitted by Capt. Danny Camacho, Battalion S-1

3-383rd Regiment summer schedule was as intensive as the winter mobilization in providing support for client units as well as the brigade.

During the month of June, the battalion conducted Mobilization and TSXXI support at Ft. Riley, Kan., and Ft. McCoy, Wis., for Operation's Noble Eagle III and Golden Medic. From June 10-13, the battalion augmented lanes' teams for 1-383rd TSBn (Des Moines) and 2-383rd TSBn (Leavenworth) in conducting training on the following collective tasks: personnel and vehicle search, establish checkpoints, react with a quick reaction force, conduct mounted security patrols, treat and evacuate casualties, and react to a chemical alert.

From June 2-23, the Medical Team provided TSXXI support for Operation Golden

Medic at Ft. McCoy. The Team provided OC/T coverage and training for ground ambulance units on the following medical collective tasks: tactical road march, defense, evacuation casualties, and ground ambulance support.

During the month of July, the battalion provided TSXXI support for Operation's Blue Devil at Ft. McCoy, and Night Hawk at Ft. Chaffee, Ark. At Ft. McCoy, The Med Team provided operational and lanes training support for the 107th Med (Winnipeg, Ontario), a multinational unit from Canada, from July 13-22.

The team provided training for the Canadian unit by utilizing the half-million-dollar SIM-MAN, a computer operated mannequin that provides realistic human-like responses to specific medical conditions one might find on the battlefield. The mannequin can talk, vomit, cough and even go into cardiac arrest by a simple command from a computer. The medic must respond to the changing conditions the SIM-MAN produces and respond correctly or the SIM-MAN will die.

At Ft. Chaffee, Ark., the OPFOR Team provided OC/T coverage for the 39th Enhanced Separate Brigade (eSB) from July 2-29. The team provided lanes training for the following tasks: movement to contact, night tactical movements, conducting and securing LZ, zone and area reconnaissance, and perimeter defense. The team received countless accolades and achievement awards for their professional TSXXI support from their active duty counterparts.

Despite the unit being spread thin throughout July, the battalion executed a Change of Command Ceremony July 11, 2003. The unit said goodbye to Lt. Col. Samborski and welcomed the new battalion commander, Maj. Gerard Rideaux. Rideaux comes to the battalion from G1, 75th Division (Houston) with great experience, enthusiasm and energy that will benefit the battalion for future to come.

In the months surrounding the training events, the battalion released 60 soldiers from active duty. With the remaining soldiers, the battalion is gearing up to support future mobilization missions generated by Operation Iraqi Freedom II. The battalion leadership is confident these soldiers will excel and provide profes-

stereotype of a combat team.

“I’ve never had a question that women can’t do the job. Most of it is that they don’t want to do it or are not trained,” said Hart. “There are always the few like Sgt. James that are just as capable as a man but have never been trained on how to be infantry soldiers. For me, green is green, and she outperformed many of the men in our unit. I think for her it was the drive. She has an awesome intensity to be the best, and that’s what kept her in.”

When James initially arrived at Riley and the team started to prepare for the events, many of the soldiers involved mistook her for the administration person each team brought with them. That problem was solved at the first event of the challenge.

“We had a couple reactions at the PT test because that was when people started realizing that there was a female actually competing,” said Hart.

“Everybody assumed that she was the log person up until she showed up in a PT uniform. I listened to some of the other log guys that didn’t know that she was on our team, and they couldn’t believe the unit from Houston had a female on the team.”

James quieted the crowd with her performance. Col. Gasper Gulotta, commander, 3rd Brigade, 75th Infantry Division, commented on James performance in his closing address to the soldiers involved in the challenge.

“James did the best push-ups I have seen any soldier do,” said Gulotta. “She knocked out 60 of the most beautiful, perfect push-ups, and I knew that was a female soldier that I didn’t want to mess with. She’s tough — And, you saw her coming in with that rucksack on her back, running most of the way with her team. When you look at a female soldier like that, you know that when they put their minds to it, and work hard and train hard, they can do just about anything men can do.”

James took those perfect push-ups and maxed her event with 30 seconds to spare, and then capped the performance with a max in the sit-ups and a run that brought her in ahead of

half of the male competitors in that event, according to Hart.

James team knew that they had something special, as the looks of the competitors in the events started to change to looks of respect as the team moved through the different events.

“I was definitely going to be the secret weapon out here because I can max out the PT test. So, that is an advantage the other teams would not expect,” said James. “My communication skills have also come in real handy out here.”

Even though James was the first female to break into the OPFOR Challenge, she doubts that she will be the last.

“I guess it would have been interesting to see more females out here. I would like to see more compete,” said James. “It should not be an all male, testosterone driven event. There are females who enjoy this. It’s not just the men. Females don’t know what they are missing,” she said.

At the end of the contest, James shocked the crowd with one last feat. During the awards ceremony, James was recognized as the top scorer in the PT event. The applause was thunderous as she stepped up to receive her certificate from Brig. Gen. Walter Zink, deputy division commander, 75th Division.

Lt. Col. J.K. McGee also commended James performance in the challenge.

“Sgt. James from 4th Brigade is tough as nails. I think that she has all of the right stuff,” said McGee.

“She stuck out just because of the level of performance that she showed in the OPFOR Challenge,” he said.

After the contest was over and the teams started to move back to the grind of a soldier’s life, James reflected on one guilty pleasure she would take home with her.

“Just the fact that we are making everybody feel bad that they are competing with a girl and rubbing it in, that feels pretty good,” said James.

It's A Whole New World For Guardsmen And Reservists, No Longer 'Weekend Warriors'

By David Josar, Stars and Stripes

The terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, ushered in a new world for members of the Reserves and National Guard.

They already were used to an occasional six-month tour in the Balkans, but now the part-time soldiers found themselves being called repeatedly away from home for back-to-back-to-back deployments that some of them say they weren't specifically trained to do.

Military leaders said this is the new world for America's reservists and guardsmen. Now they will be called upon to not only protect their home states, but to also combat terrorism overseas.

The new world will mean serving more than just one weekend a month and two weeks a year. The days of the "weekend warrior" are gone, said Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for Reserve Affairs, in a recent interview, according to a transcript distributed by American Forces News Service.

"It's a new world, and we need to transition," he said.

That shift may have caught some weekend warriors unprepared.

"Everything is different after Sept. 11," said Army Col. David Start, a guardsman who is head of reserve affairs for U.S. troops in Iraq. "There are different expectations now."

As of Oct. 8, 166,046 reservists and guardsmen — of which three-quarters are Army — were on active duty somewhere in the world, according to the Department of Defense. There are 1,209,200 Reserve and Guard troops, 700,274 of which are Army Reserves and Guard.

Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, which oversees all reserve forces, told The Associated Press last week that he expects the total of reservists and guardsmen on active duty for the war on terrorism to remain above 100,000 for the next two years.

"The National Guard is and will continue to be used at a rate that is unprecedented," Blum said.

About 42,000 of the roughly 160,000 American troops in Iraq are members of the Reserves and National Guard, according to U.S. military leaders in Baghdad attached to the headquarters element. As of Oct. 3, 52 had died in the Iraq war. Active-duty troops deployed to Iraq are told they can expect to be there for up to a year. But the orders reservists and guardsmen get say they can be there for up to two years.

Stripes surveyed nearly 2,000 American troops across Iraq, hundreds of them from the Reserves and National Guard. Many are angry and confused. They are unsure of their mission or when they will go home. Some are disappointed in their commands, and a significant number are disillusioned about how they've been treated.

"We are second-class soldiers," Staff Sgt. Richard Thompson said in an interview. "We are away longer from our families. We are assigned to jobs we're not trained to do. Our equipment is lacking."

Army Staff Sgt. Russell R. Wert is representative of the growing divide between active-duty servicemembers, and reservists and guardsmen. Wert and other guardsmen from the 157th Military Police Company from Martinsburg, W.Va., have been home just four months since Sept. 11, 2001.

"You hear about this 'Army of One.' Well, there isn't one Army," said Wert, a prison guard who has been in Iraq since February. "It's an Army of them, and us."

Of the reservists and guardsmen surveyed by Stripes, 48 percent rated their morale either "low" or "very low." And 55 percent said they were either "unlikely" or "very unlikely" to re-enlist.

"Our generals need to face the reality here," said Master Sgt. C.J. Nouse, 39, from the 372nd MP Company. "Reserve members can't possibly keep this pace up. With deployments to Bosnia and for

homeland defense, our families are continuing to suffer. Does anyone care?"

For Nouse, who has 21 years of military experience, Iraq has been his second deployment since Sept. 11, 2001, and he has seen his wife and daughter for only four months since then.

"This is totally unacceptable. ... Bring us home or suffer mass exits soon," he said.

There probably will be a drop in the number of people who serve in the military, but that isn't unanticipated, said Army Lt. Col. David Stark, a guardsman brought specifically to Baghdad to address reservist and guardsmen issues.

"That happens after all conflicts," he said.

Surveys and interviews of reservists and guardsmen showed some common complaints. Among them:

- * The most disheartened troops appeared to be those who had been activated repeatedly since Sept. 11, 2001. They do not know why they must take on more of the burden while other units remain at home or are not called to serve.

- * Reserve and National Guard troops said that because they are so confused about how they are treated, they spend parts of their days trying to ferret out what is truth and fiction about the military in Iraq.

One misperception is their commanders volunteer them for additional missions that prevent them from going home and which could be done by other units. The reason, the soldiers said, is greed. Their leaders, especially in military police units, already draw police pensions in addition to their active-duty pay. Stark, who has heard the same gripe, said it is patently untrue and calls that scenario an "urban folktale."

- * They are treated differently than active-duty military personnel.

National Guard units say at times during the recent deployment to Iraq, they have been regulated to different bathrooms and medical care. One unit was so poorly supplied it asked hospitals in the United States to donate medical supplies. Other units said they were asked to get by on two bottles of water a day so regular Army units could have more bottles.

They also receive different insurance

coverage for their families than their active-duty counterparts. Senate Minority Leader Thomas A. Daschle (D-S.D.) is seeking \$400 million a year to extend the Pentagon's health insurance program to activated guardsmen, reservists and their families. Reservists and guardsmen also have older radios and other electronic equipment.

Reserve and National Guard units with training in one area are repeatedly forced to work in fields for which they weren't trained.

- * Active-duty units have been told they must serve a one-year tour. National Guard and Reserve troops are being told to plan on two years of service, which is the amount of time they can be activated for one mission, Stark said. "Stop-loss has not been lifted for us, but it has been for the active component," complained a 37-year-old guardsman at Camp Warrior. Leaders are told not to give dates to return home until they are definite, Stark said. "Changing the date someone can go home is more devastating than knowing you will have to stay longer," Stark said. "When you have that go-home date, you can plan for it and mentally use it."

Stark did not disagree with any of Stripes' findings, and he noted that most of the troops' concerns were similar to those aired last month with he met with the commanders of military police companies, the majority of which are culled from Reserve and National Guard ranks.

"It is hard," Stark acknowledged, and the military is working to make the deployments more bearable.

"The National Guard is and will continue to be used at a rate that is unprecedented" in the 30-year history of the all-volunteer military, Blum said.

Transformation of the military should help, though, said Stark.

For example, he said, military police and civil affairs units have been repeatedly tasked in the Balkans, Afghanistan and now in Iraq.

Those units already had been understaffed and perhaps with a shift in the way the military is staffed those shortages which lead to the long, repeated deployments for reservists could be stopped, he said.

Lt. Gen. James Helmly, chief of the Army Reserve, is keenly aware of troops' concerns.

"If I'm just brutish with regard to the treatment of our people, then we won't have any people," Helmly told The Associated Press. "They'll tell us, 'I'm out of here.'"

In addition to a rebalanced force, Hall said he believes the future will include a more flexible drilling schedule. Instead of the traditional week-end drill, there could be two two-week training periods a year, he said.

The Department of Defense also is looking to create a more predictable rotation schedule.

"Once we accomplish that, we'll be able to tell you as a guardsman or reservist, for example, that three years from now, you need to do six months of duty in the Sinai."

Those changes, though, are months if not years away, and the present reality resonates with soldiers like those in the 372nd Military Police Company, a Reserve unit from Cumberland, Md., which is living inside an abandoned date factory in southern Iraq outside Hillah.

The soldiers have been there for three months. They have no Internet service, and the only way to call home is to pay \$1.25 a minute to a local Iraqi who is operating a satellite phone concession on the camp. The 372nd does not have a mess hall, uses jury-rigged showers and has no post exchange. The abandoned warehouse they call home, which is no better or worse than that of "regular" Army soldiers, has no air conditioning and intermittent electricity.

The reservists, who have put aside law school, families and their civilian jobs, are questioning why they are here.

"Our mission is now almost over, our relief is here, but nobody in the chain of command knows anything of our status," said Sgt. Stephen J. Pierson, a 42-year-old military police officer.

Pierson is confused now after being activated for six months. "If we're needed, give us another mission," he said. "However, once we are not needed, which we aren't now, don't waste my time, don't keep me from my civilian job, don't waste my tax dollars and don't keep me from my family."

Committed to leaving the military, driven in part by his Iraq experience, is Army Spc. Chris Wallace, 31, of the 157th MP Company, out of Martinsburg, W.Va., who is a lumber company manager when not activated.

Wallace has been deployed for more than 600 days in the last two years. Now he lives with his company in an old building on Camp Edson, a former Iraqi university about a two-hour drive south of Baghdad.

There is no air conditioning, soldiers do laundry in buckets and they have little downtime from their police duties. They took up a collection to buy a refrigerator. The mail takes about a month to get there or to arrive at its destination stateside. Their mailing address has changed three times, which leads to the slow mail problem.

"Services may get better, but we want to leave before they get better," Wallace wrote as he completed a Stars and Stripes survey.

His unit was deployed in June 2001 to Fort Benning for training, and then had three weeks home in southern West Virginia. He was then home for a month and activated for a full year to Fort Benning, Ga., to do homeland security duty under Operation Noble Eagle.

He was home for three months before being activated again Feb. 15 for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Wallace complained that his unit is "well below readiness standards" due to the constant deployments. He talked about the reasons behind the high-deployment rate, saying: "The MP Corps is decimated Armywide."

The senior leadership of the U.S. military was not ready for the occupation of Iraq, said Army Sgt. 1st Class John Boyd Jr., also a from the 372nd MP Company. "I strongly believe that the current administration is more concerned with re-election politics and less on doing the right thing," said Boyd, a reservist. "After this whole ordeal is over, I think you will see the ranks of the Army Reserve decimated."

Helmly told The Associated Press that intuition would suggest that recruiting would be harder now, though statistics don't bear it out yet.

"Do I worry about it?" Helmly said in the story. "I will tell you it's the No. 1 thing in my worry book."

AWARDS

Meritorious Service Medal



Sgt. 1st Class William A. Maral Jr.
Lt. Col. Mark Asbury
Sgt. 1st Class Gary R. Baier
Lt. Col. Susan M. Barlow
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Bryan E. Boyd
Sgt. 1st Class Billie Brokob
Sgt. 1st Class Keith Brown
Master Sgt. Yolanda Brown
Col. William M. Buckler Jr.
Lt. Col. Ronald Buettner
Maj. John A. Carpenter
Maj. Michael Carr
Maj. Dennis P. Chapman
Sgt. 1st Class Billy W. Corley
Capt. Christopher Cummings
Command Sgt. Maj. Frank A. Dattoli
Col. James M. Dobbins
Command Sgt. Maj. Richard A. Dorsey
Master Sgt. Kenneth P. Drake
Sgt. 1st Class Kalen D. Dringman
Capt. Thomas K. Dye
Maj. Ernest R. Edge
Master Sgt. Lamar D. Evans
Master Sgt. Donna M. Fisher
Col. Gary W. Gardenhire
Sgt. 1st Class Jack R. Glasscock
Maj. Toni Glover
Chief Warrant Officer 3 John Grady
Maj. Warren T. Griffing
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Shelly Grossley
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Manuel C. Guizar
Maj. Jimmy E. Hall
Col. John Hauschild
Capt. Phillip L. Hirsch
Lt. Col. David Hollands
Master Sgt. Kenneth Hollis
Col. Stanley C. Horton
Sgt. 1st Class Jerald L. Hunt

Lt. Col. William Jackson
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gregory L. Jenkins
Lt. Col. Donald E. Jones
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Lowell F. Jones II
Sgt. 1st Class Robert F. Kelly
Capt. Christopher T. Kuhn
Sgt. 1st Class Michelle Laurant
Staff St. Christopher Layer
Maj. Arthur A. Leaf
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kevin D. Lenamond
Col. Dwight Lewis
Master Sgt. Howard L. Mack
Capt. Neil R. Mahabir
Maj. Wayne Marotto
Lt. Col. Berlin Marshall
Col. James A. Mayer
Maj. Michael C. McCall
Sgt. 1st Class Timothy S. McCray
Sgt. 1st Class Forrest N. McKinley
Col. Harland Merriam
Sgt. 1st Class La Barbara Mid'Gett
Sgt. 1st Class Alan T. Mitchell
Chief Warrant Officer 4 Craig R. Mowitz
Lt. Col. Robert C. O'Leary
Sgt. 1st Class Edwin R. Ortiz
Col. Ricky D. Parker
Maj. Kevin G. Parnell
Sgt. 1st Class Gabriel Parra
Maj. Chaundra D. Perry
Capt. Ralph D. Phillips
Sgt. 1st Class Nabor Pineiro Jr.
Maj. Todd G. Pisarski
Maj. John C. Pistone
Sgt. 1st Class Celso R. Plaza
Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth J. Rice
Lt. Col. Elton B. Richey
Maj. Andrew Ring
Master Sgt. Tony Rucks
Lt. Col. Robert P. Samborski
Maj. Alfred Sebile
Capt. Samuel Skinner
Master Sgt. Mary M. Smith
Maj. Howard Frank Stanley
Sgt. 1st Class Warren Staples
Sgt. 1st Class Vincent B. Starwood
Capt. Michael E. Steelman
Sgt. 1st Class Darnell Teamer

Maj. Lawrence M. Terranova
 Master Sgt. Donald Terry Jr.
 Sgt. 1st Class Glenville Thompson
 Master Sgt. Joseph A. Tomlinson
 Sgt. 1st Class Dominick Turner
 Master Sgt. Themetta Turner
 Lt. Col. Clara Veal
 Staff Sgt. Saulo Vega
 Master Sgt. Isabelo F. Vivar
 Staff Sgt. Owen A. Williams
 Col. Robert J. Williams
 Staff Sgt. Daniel Zimmermann
 Maj. Harry T. Chavez (1OLC)
 Capt. Shawn B. Czehowski (1OLC)
 Capt. Michael D. Gergen (1OLC)
 Maj. Jonathan K. Graff (1OLC)
 Maj. Eric A. Hughes (1OLC)
 Maj. Veston M. Kelly Jr. (1OLC)
 Sgt. 1st Class Eddie J. Lovely (1OLC)
 Maj. Irvin Pete (1OLC)
 Capt. Cainaz Vakharia (1OLC)
 Master Sgt. Richard Wilson Jr. (1OLC)
 Lt. Col. Dale N. Egger (2OLC)
 Master Sgt. Edgar A. Gonzalez (2OLC)
 Capt. William D. Harrison (2OLC)
 Sgt. 1st Class David Sanchez (2OLC)
 Master Sgt. Mark A. Fosnaught (3OLC)
 Master Sgt. Steven L. Andrews (4OLC)
 Maj. Quenton L. Farr (4OLC)
 Lt. Col. Milton D. Hughes (4OLC)
 Lt. Col. Nicholas J. Spiridigliozzi (5OLC)

Army Commendation Medal



Maj. Daryl G. Aaron
 Sgt. Maj. George T. Alger Jr.
 Maj. Ronald Allen
 Sgt. 1st Class Anthony
 Maj. Alvin Ardley
 Staff Sgt. Florence M. Arline
 Sgt. 1st Class Auston
 Master Sgt. Isaac B. Baker Sr.
 Staff Sgt. John E. Bargerstock

Maj. Carol D. Barnes
 Lt. Col. Christopher Barnhart
 Staff Sgt. Jenene Barrow-Selmon
 Sgt. Tiffany C. Billups
 Lt. Col. Richard Blumberg
 Staff Sgt. Linda Bockenkamp
 Maj. Richard J. Boehning
 Lt. Col. James M. Bogan III
 Sgt. 1st Class Michael E. Bohac
 Staff Sgt. Annie Branch
 1st Lt. Frances R. Burden
 Staff Sgt. Tyler E. Carlson
 Chief Warrant Officer 4 Rodolfo Carr
 Staff Sgt. Charlotte Carter
 Staff Sgt. Michael Carty
 Master Sgt. Chavela Cooper
 Master Sgt. Deloris Cornelius
 Sgt. 1st Class Janice Cummings
 Staff Sgt. Donna Demouy
 Maj. Kelley L. Donham
 Spc. Suzy Drumwright
 Maj. Joannie Lutrill Duff
 Staff Sgt. Anita Durley
 Staff Sgt. Anthony Craig Ealey
 Master Sgt. Jerry L. Eddin
 Staff Sgt. Linda Ezell
 Maj. Quenton L. Farr
 Sgt. Tonya Fells
 Master Sgt. Miles Fletcher
 Sgt. Alma N. Flores
 Sgt. John Gann
 Sgt. 1st Class Roselia Garcia
 Sgt. 1st Class Juan V. Gonzales
 Chief Warrant Officer 2 James T. Graham
 Sgt. 1st Class Donald P. Grigery
 Chief Warrant Officer 2 Barbara K. Hack
 Maj. Jimmy E. Hall
 Maj. Robin Joy Hall
 Maj. Leon Hamilton
 Staff Sgt. Hartman
 Sgt. Angelia D. Henry
 Staff Sgt. Alfonso L. Hernandez
 Staff Sgt. Toliver G. Hill
 Master Sgt. Franceda F. Houston
 Sgt. 1st Class Melvin Jackson
 Spc. Dustin J. Jaeger
 Sgt. 1st Class Lolita James

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Carlos Jiminez
 Chief Warrant Officer 2 Carlos M. Johns
 Master Sgt. Abraham Johnson
 Sgt. 1st Class Johnson
 Capt. Isaac Johnson Jr.
 Staff Sgt. Albert S. Jones
 Capt. Neal G. Ketron III
 Maj. Richard Kirk
 Staff Sgt. Lawrence M. Leising
 Lt. Col. Danny E. Lovelady
 Staff Sgt. Frank Marcano
 Spc. Janette F. Matthews
 Sgt. 1st Class Robert McCracken
 Capt. John W. McGillivray
 Staff Sgt. McGrew
 Maj. Arthur P. Medina
 Staff Sgt. Mendoza
 Col. Harland C. Merriam Jr.
 Chief Warrant Officer 4 James R. Methvin
 Staff Sgt. Vivian L. Miller
 Master Sgt. Ricky L. Milligan
 Master Sgt. Ricky Moore
 Sgt. Daniel Moreno
 Capt. Don C. Patterson
 Sgt. Maj. Doyle Perry
 Col. Kenneth Peters
 Sgt. Dai Pham
 Sgt. 1st Class Charlotte Phillips
 Maj. Dennis Preacely
 Master Sgt. Juan C. Reyes
 Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer L. Reyna
 Spc. Lisa Rhodes
 Lt. Col. Modesto Rivera-Colon
 Sgt. Mark Roach
 Master Sgt. Dorothy M. Robinson
 Sgt. Maj. Fernando Rodriguez
 Staff Sgt. Marcus Rosales
 Capt. David Russo
 Master Sgt. Joyce A. Sanford
 Lt. Col. Mickel Sawyer
 Lt. Col. Bernard J. Shealy
 Master Sgt. William R. Sheldon
 Sgt. David Shepard
 Sgt. Terry A. Singleton
 Staff Sgt. Smith
 Staff Sgt. Sergio C. Sosa
 Sgt. 1st Class Steven R. Standiford

Master Sgt. Ralph E. Stanley
 Spc. Carol Stubbs
 Staff Sgt. Fernando Sustaita
 Spc. Sean D. Taylor
 Staff Sgt. Sheila M. Terrell
 Sgt. Tracey Thomas
 Master Sgt. Oscar Turner
 Cpt. Tuttle
 Sgt. 1st Class Isabelo F. Vivar
 Master Sgt. Efrem Z. Waller
 Sgt. Monique White
 Sgt. Maj. Sampson Wilbur
 Master Sgt. Steve M. Wiley
 Chief Warrant Officer 2 Angela J. Williams
 Master Sgt. Darnell J. Wilson
 Chief Warrant Officer 2 Darnell Wingert
 Staff Sgt. Karmen B. San Nicolas (1OLC)

Army Achievement Medal



Sgt. 1st Class Sergio Armijo
 Capt. Scott D. Barrell
 Sgt. Tyrone J. Bowie
 Staff Sgt. Olyn L. Cates
 Staff Sgt. Milton E. Collins
 Capt. Christopher Cummings
 Staff Sgt. Darby
 Spc. Suzy Drumwright
 Cadet Le Jerrett D. Elzy
 Master Sgt. Johnny Fortune
 Sgt. John Gann
 Sgt. Steven D. Giles
 Sgt. Phadrian Glenn
 Maj. Griffin
 Spc. Edgar Gomez
 Maj. Warren T. Griffith
 Lt. Col. Sharon Hickey
 Lt. Col. William Jackson
 Sgt. Penelope James
 Sgt. Kimberly D. Landry
 Maj. Mike G. Oliveri
 Spc. Susan M. Redwine
 Maj. Lora Rimmer

Master Sgt. Joyce A. Sanford
 Sgt. 1st Class Concha Schoenberger
 Sgt. 1st Class Roy Simon
 Master Sgt. Mary Smith
 Staff Sgt. Ronald Smith
 Master Sgt. Donald Terry Jr.
 Spc. Anderson Thompson

PROMOTIONS

OFFICERS



Brent Barkley 1st BDE SEG (BCST)
 Thomas J Crane 1st BDE SEG (BCST)
 Sam Lee Dunavant 1st BDE BPG
 Jaime Franco 1st BDE 2 SEG (BCST)
 Jeffrey Mac Hicks 1st BDE BPG (BCST)
 X. L. Mays 1st BDE 2 SEG (BCST) TS
 Bernard J. Shealy HQ DIV
 Bruce D. Trumm 1st BDE BPG(BCST) TS
 Lloyd W. Walker 1st BDE BPG (BCST) TS
 Jonathan K. Wiedenfeld 1st BDE BPG



John N. Black HQ DIV HHC
 Terry Ray Boyd 1st BDE 2 SEG BCST TS
 Edwin H. Clark Jr. 1/289 4 BDE (CS/CSS)
 William Fincher 1st BDE SEG (BCST) TS
 Michael D. Gergen 1st BDE BPG (BCST)
 Adam J. Goglia HQ 2 BDE (TS)
 Isaac Johnson Jr. HQ DIV HHC
 James M. Kisiel 1st BDE SEG (BCST) TS
 Craig A. Maki 3/381 2 BDE (CS/CSS)
 Robert J. Neeley HQ DIV HHC
 Rimmer, HHD, 2nd BDE
 Timothy M. Snyder HQ 2 BDE
 Howard Frank Stanley HQ DIV HHC
 Richard A. Steinkamp 1st BDE SEG (BCST)



Ryan M. Arthur 1/289 4 BDE (CS/CSS)
 Danile J. Beadle HQ DIV HHC
 Kelle Dzien Do 1st BDE BPG (BCST)
 John W. McGillivray HQ DIV HHC
 KevinT. Reneau HQ 2 BDE
 Richard F. Selvera 1/289 4 BDE (CS/CSS)
 Mark Edward Stuart 1st BDE SEG (BCST)
 Edward G. Summers II 2/290 4 BDE (CS/CSS)



Katherine A. Arrington 1st BDE BPG
 Janice Levine Champio Terry 3/289 2BDE (CS/CSS)

ENLISTED



Theodore R. Beard III,
 Frank A. Daniels Jr., 4th 2/381st
 Darrell L. Mitchell, 1st 2 SEG
 Douglas M. Small, 1st 2 SEG
 William E. Smith, HHC
 Earnest C. Young, 3rd 3/382nd



Kristi K. Anguiano 3rd HQ
 Daniel J. Barrington, 2nd 3/289th
 Darren A. Beckman, 3rd 3/383rd
 Sylvia M. Biggett, 4th 1/289th
 Curtis L. Braxdale, 3rd 2/383rd
 Donald E. Britton, 1st SEG
 Nerland Y. Coulanges, BPG
 Patricia A. Dow, 2nd 3/290th
 Mark A. Hinkle, 3rd 382nd
 Lori L. Keeling, 2nd 2/382nd
 Melvin A. McCutchen, 2nd 3/290th
 Tommy D. Stewart, RRC 90th
 Christina C. Upton, 4th 1/382nd
 Lucio Valdez Jr., 1st SEG
 Isabelo F. Vivar, HHC

Terry Von Watson, 2nd 3/381st
Terry J. Watson, 1st 2 SEG
Todd M. Williamson, 3rd 1/383rd



Michael J. Allen, 1/289th
Charles L. Ballentine, 3/382nd
John E. Bargerstock, HHD
Gerald Duane Bridgewater, 2nd BN 382nd
James O. Brigoli, 2/290th
Timmy C. Butler, 3/381st
Valeriano Cortinas Jr., 2/381st
George O. Craft Jr., 3/383rd
Fred L. Dozier, 3/381st
Eric S. Ebersole, 1/289th
Saedbeth Else, 3/381st
Gerald E. Fogel, 3/290th
Jimmy F. Gaston Jr., 2/290th
Frederick A. Gayles, 2/381st
Dietrich E. Grabau, 1/383rd
Christopher L. Grant, 1/289th
Lisa J. Green, 3/382nd
Kevin D. Herbert, BPG
Robert Leon Hicks, 3rd BN 289th REGT
James L. Hoover, 2nd BN 383rd REGT
Michael P. Hutchinson, 2/383rd
Darby A. James, 3/381st
Roberto Jolliffe, 2/382nd
Gregory King, 1/289th
Paul E. Kornberger, 3/383rd
Michelle Laurant, HHD
Lawrence M. Leising, HHD
Gregory G. Lord, 2nd SEG
Robert W. McCracken, HHD
Phillip C. McKernan, 3/383rd
Antonio C. McWherter, 3/383rd
Timothy W. Moore, 2/290th
Matthew R. Moulton, 2/290th
Pedro V. Perna Jr., 3/381st
Lawson Elwood Proctor, 3rd BN 289th REGT
Charles M. Rice Jr., 3/383rd
Charles L. Riffe, 2/381st
Tamiko M. Riggs, 1/382nd
Allen R. Robertson, 3/383rd
Patrick Steven Robertson, 1st BN 289th REGT
Iris Rodriguez Reyes, 1st BN 289th REGT

Jesus A. Rolon Medina, HHC
Richard C. Rusk, 2/382nd
Johnny R. Sanders, 2/381st
Elton A. Simmons, 1/289th
Billy D. Smith, 1st BN 382nd REGT
Jacqueline D. Stokes, 2/383rd
Malcom S. Stone, 3/381st
James W. Stroud, 2/383rd
Richard S. Taylor, 2/382nd
Sheila M. J. Terrell, HHD
William R. Thacker Jr., 2/290th
Bryan Thomas Sr., 3rd BN 289th REGT
Debra S. Vincent, 3/381st
John W. Wells, 2/383rd
Thomas L White, 2/290th
Walter Daniel White, 3rd BN 381st REGT (CS/
CSS)
Nathaniel Williams, 3/383rd
Brian S. Wood, 1st BN 383rd REGT
Richard Yzaguirre, 1/289th



Binneboese D. Allen, 2/383rd
Andrew Aaron Anderson, BPG
Gary A. Anger, 3/383rd
Florence M. Arline, HHD
Patricia L. Batres, 3/383rd
Jeffrey S. Beaird, 1/383rd
Ricardo Bolanosquintero, BPG
Richard Edward Bostelman, BPG
Tyrone J. Bowie, HHD
David James Brown, BPG
Victor Byrd, 2/381st
Michael J. Carty, HHD
Cecil F. Chandler, 1/382nd
Charles R. Chaney, 1/382nd
Terrance Deangelo Clark, BPG
Stephen G. Clow, 3/383rd
Milton E. Collins Jr., HHD
Kerry L. Corley, 2/290th
Russell D. Cotton, 3/289th
Lorianne E. Crider, 3/382nd
Donovan L. Davis, 3/383rd
Gerald R. Deuser, 2/383rd
Norman H. Dodson, BPG

Anthony C. Ealey, HHD
 Katrina L. Felton, 2/383rd REGT
 Steven Burk Frazier, BPG
 Duke A. Fuentez, 3/381st
 Necole B. Gill, 2/290th
 Jacob D. Glade, 1/383rd
 Frederick L. Gregory, 2/381st
 Colin J. Guadagnoli, 1/383rd
 Ronald J. Gurule, 3/289th
 Christopher C. Hamilton, 1/289th
 Kenith L. Harold, 2/382nd
 Jason M. Hendricks, 1/383rd
 Elizabeth Hipolito, 1/289th
 William L. Hubbell, 2/383rd
 Sulaimon Akanni Ibrahim, BPG
 Christifer John James, BPG
 Lourdes Y. James, 1/289th
 Larry Jefferson, 2/381st
 Roger T. Johnson, 2/381st
 Albert S. Jones, HHD
 Carmella C. Jones, HHD
 Christopher James Layer, BPG
 Kisha White Levi, BPG
 Roberto Vicente Lewis, BPG
 Barry T. Liddell, 3/290th
 Audley Logan Jr., 3/381st
 Richard Lopez, 1/289th
 Byron W. Lundt, 1/382nd
 Rodney D. Madison, BPG
 Mark A. Maedge, 2/383rd
 Broderick J. Mayfield, 1/289th
 John C. McBride, 1/289th
 Derrick C. Mitchell, 2/383rd
 Robertta A. Monahan, 1/383rd
 Angela M. Mullins, 3/383rd
 Benjamin Outley, HHD
 Dwana L. Patrickallison, 1/289th
 Matthew R. Pellino, 2/290th
 Steve S. Perez, 2/381st
 Dai Q. Pham, HHD
 Lance E. Rankin, 1/382nd
 Roger R. Riggs, 1/382nd
 Mark A. Roach, HHD
 Marcus W. Rosales, HHD
 Nelson R. Russell Jr., HHC
 Joe G. Sampson, 2/381st
 Peter M. Schultz, 2/383rd

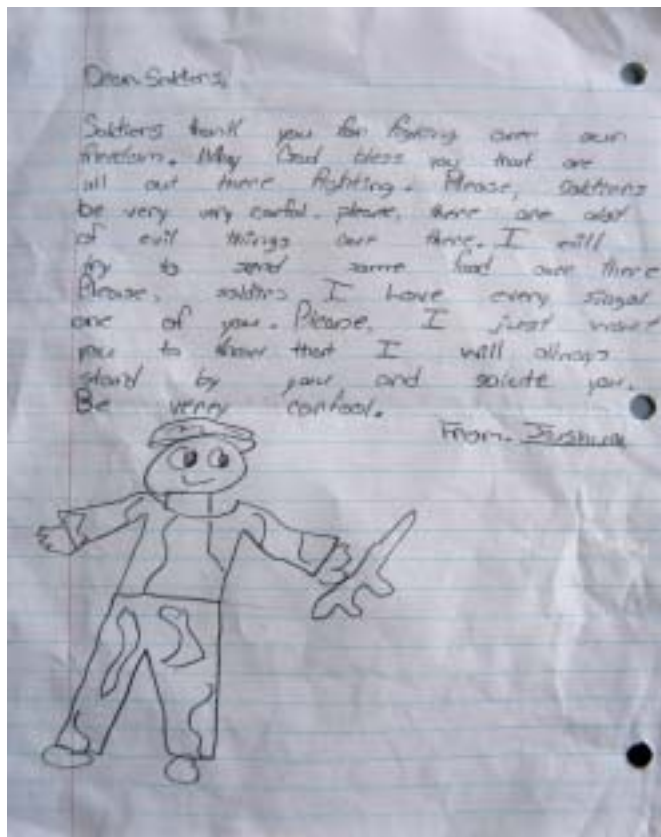
Clifton Senegal III, BPG
 Heather D. Shaffer, 2/383rd
 James R. Sheridan, 3/383rd
 Gregory L. Smith, 3/383rd
 Alike K. Sonny, 3/382nd
 Michael J. Sullivan, 2/382st REGT
 Thomas Alvin Sullivan, 2nd BN 381st REGT
 Fernando Sustaita, HHD
 Diane Marie Tamez, BPG
 Steven R. Thomas, 2/383rd REGT
 Oscar N. Thompson Jr., HHD
 Robert C. Warren, 2/381st
 Johnny L. West, 3/290th
 Morris Whitley Jr., 3rd BN 383rd REGT
 Bryan A. Williams, 2/290th
 Rodney J. Williams, 1/289th
 Bruce Lee Wynn, 1st BN 289th REGT



Sabrina King Ajay, BPG
 Justin A. Bahnsen, 2/382nd
 Deven Le Fite Bar, BPG
 Edward J. Bean, 2/290th
 Phillip J. Bowens, 2/290th
 Lisa B. Brenna, 2/383rd
 Sean T. Brown, 2/381st
 Yolanda Chandler, 1/382nd
 James R. Collins, BPG
 Belinda K. Davis, 1/289th
 Janice Deleon, BPG
 Anthony L. Deskey, 3rd BN 383rd REGT
 Angela Enamorado, 3/382nd
 Evangelina Estrada, 1/382nd
 Patrick S. Eves, 3/383rd
 Tonya M. Fells, HHD
 Mario H. Fennoy, 3rd BN 383rd REGT
 Toby E. Flood, 2/290th
 John T. Gann, HHD
 Stephen D. Giles, HHD
 Michael E. Green, 2/383rd
 Dwayne Anthony Griffith, BPG
 Nicholas B. Guin, 2/382nd
 John J. Hanlen II, 3/383rd
 Natalie J. Hickson, 2/381st
 Bradley P. Hinson, BPG
 Victor Lamar Howell, 2nd BN 382rd REGT (LS)

Robert W. Jobe, 2/383rd REGT
 Jimmie L. Kellum, 2/381st
 David D Knight, 3/290th
 Tyrone K. Kozlowski, 3rd BN 383rd REGT
 Kimberly D. Landry, HHD
 Martin J. Lawrence, 1/383rd
 Cheri L. Lee, 3rd BN 383rd REGT
 Timmy A. Lee, 3/290th
 Danial F. Lisarelli, 1st SEG
 Demiktrick J. Lynch, 1st SEG
 Chelsea A. McKinney, 2/381st
 Daniel Moreno, HHD
 Delia M. Parker, HHC
 Jennifer R. Patterson, 2/290th
 Reginald Randau, 3/383rd
 Ronny L. Reed, 1/382nd
 Tillman J. Rochester Jr., BPG
 Steven G. Schell, BPG
 Wayne J. Skaggs, 3/382nd
 Charles M. Smittick, 1/382nd
 Carol D. Stubbs, HHD
 Juanita Tanner, 1st BN 289th REGT
 Anderson Thompson III, HHD
 Danny G. Thornhill, 3/383rd
 Robert Curtiss Vaughn III, BPG
 Christina M. Watts, HHC
 Victoria Janette Weaver, 3rd BN 383rd REGT
 Yolanda G. Williams, BPG
 Karen Latrice Wooten, BPG
 Sgt. Watts, HHD, 2nd BDE
 Casey P. Zelaya, 1/382nd

***Congratulations to all
 of the soldiers who
 were awarded medals
 and were promoted.***



A concerned elementary school student sent this letter to soldiers at the 75th in March.



Division soldiers pictured on front cover from left to right: Capt. Craig Hickerson, 3-383TSB, Capt. David Poland, 3-383TSB, Sgt. Daniel Moreno, HHC, 75th Div., Master Sgt. Isaac Baker, HHC, 75th Div., Staff Sgt. Karmen San Nicolas, HHC, 75th Div., Master Sgt. Juan Reyes, HHC, 75th Div., Maj. Isaac Johnson, HHC, 75th Div., Capt. Leon Wilson, 1-383, 3Bde, 75th Div.



**75th DIV(TS)
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1850 Old Spanish Trail
Houston, Texas 77054-2025
1-800-390-1530 ext 7591**

**SFC Brian Allen, 2nd BDE, gets up
and close to a 240 B machine gunner.**

